



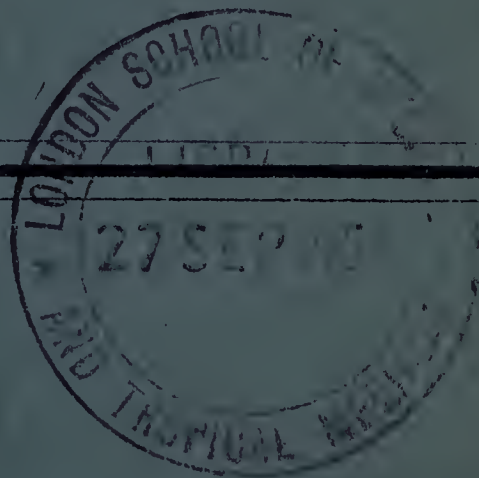
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*COLONIAL REPORTS*

# Sarawak

## 1953

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LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1954

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His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G.,  
presenting the insignia of the Queen's Medal for Chiefs to Temonggong  
Tama Kalang Lawai (Tama Weng Ajang), M.B.E., in Kuching, 1st December,  
1953







SARAWAK

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ANNUAL REPORT

1953

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
KUCHING, SARAWAK  
W. J. CHATER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER



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# PART I





Sarawak's official  
Representatives a-  
bout to leave Ku-  
ching to attend the  
Coronation of H. M.  
Queen Elizabeth II.  
*Left to right:* Datu  
Abang Openg bin  
Abang Sapi'ee; the  
Hon. R. G. Aikman,  
C.M.G. (Chief Secre-  
tary), Mr. Chew  
Geok Lim, M.B.E.  
Penghulu Jugah,  
B.E.M.





The arrival in Kuching on October 16, 1953 of the members of the Indonesian Goodwill Mission from Kalimantan Barat (West Borneo)





# I

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## GENERAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

**1953** WAS, in Sarawak, most emphatically Coronation Year; a number of other important events occurred but none of these are likely to be as well remembered as the joyful and spontaneous manifestations of loyalty throughout the whole country on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation. In addition to the services held in churches of all denominations, there were celebrations in towns and villages everywhere, regattas, processions, sports, dancing, dinners, and presentations of addresses and sentiments of loyalty to Her Majesty from all classes and races of the community. Some of the gatherings to celebrate the Coronation are shown in photographs in the body of this report; special mention of any particular event is, perhaps, invidious but those who saw them will long remember the decorations and the great evening procession in Kuching, the regatta in Sibü (which included, for the first time in those waters, a Ladies' Race), the fireworks and bonfire in Saratok, and the schools' tea party at Limbang. Throughout the country children and young people played their full part in the celebrations, and it might be appropriate to quote an extract from the School Essay Competition—

“Although I am only a little girl ..... in Sibü, a small town in Sarawak, a very small part of the great British Empire, yet I am very happy and shall rejoice today with all the members of the Empire.....”—

as an example of the outlook and sentiments of these young participants. Four representatives of Sarawak attended the Coronation and were present in the Abbey.

Although 1953 was a year of general economic recession throughout the Far East, Sarawak was less affected than some of her neighbours. The most important factor in maintaining a comparatively high degree of economic activity was the diversification of production for export developed during the preceding

five years. As a result the fall of over \$33½ millions in the value of rubber exports was offset by a net increase of over \$27 millions in the value of other exports, notably pepper and timber. Concurrently the agricultural production for internal consumption, notably of rice, also increased. In consequence the demand for imported goods was well maintained and the value of imports, other than crude oil for processing and re-export, increased by over \$18 millions.

Agricultural production in Sarawak is almost wholly in the hands of small farmers and the 1953 figures for production and export are evidence of the resiliency of a peasant economy and its capacity to adjust itself to variations in prices and demand.

Although the value of the country's external trade was well maintained, the serious fall in the value and volume of rubber exports resulted in a decrease in Government revenue. Figures given on page 29 show a decrease of \$15 millions as compared with 1952; the 1952 figures, however, included some \$11 millions for arrears of income falling due in the two previous financial years. There was, thus, a true fall of \$4 million in spite of increased import duties on alcoholic liquor and tobacco, and an increase from 20% to 30% in the rate of Income Tax on Companies.

The increase in labour available as a result of reduced rubber production was reflected in the increased tempo of construction and also of progress in the territory's rehabilitation and development plans. Details of Government building and road construction during the year are to be found in Chapter XII of the Report; it must be emphasised there was still a shortage of technical officers and materials which limited the works programme.

There was no significant change in the cost of living index figure throughout the year.

Development schemes completed or nearly completed during the year included the Rubber Improvement (Extension) and Cultivation of Cash Crops projects, final work on the Kuching/Serian Road, a new Public Works Department Garage in Kuching, and the Bau Waterworks. Work was started on new Government offices and a Health Centre in Kuching, on buildings required for the Broadcasting Service, and on reconditioning the Bintulu Airstrip, while new Colonial Development and Welfare grants were made



for permanent buildings and radio equipment at Sibu Airfield. The Batu Lintang Training Centre, the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit, the Travelling Dispensary Service and the Meteorological Service, all of which started as development schemes, are now established as regular services provided by Government and will in 1954 be included in the recurrent budget.

Expenditure under the Revised Development Plan is given in detail in an Appendix to this Report and may be summarised as follows:—

		<i>Actual expenditure to 31.12.52</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure in 1953</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure in 1954</i>
Colonial Development and				
Welfare Grants	...	6,431,057	1,489,797	1,366,238
Colony Funds	...	2,673,956	9,486,359	19,646,378
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	9,105,013	10,976,156	21,012,616
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These figures show that expenditure during 1953 exceeded by nearly \$2 million the total expenditure to the end of 1952, and that development expenditure is being increasingly met from Sarawak's own funds. A detailed report on the progress made during 1953 on development schemes is set out in the Report on Development (1953), published in December.

The Development Board is now engaged in a revision of the development plan to cover the period 1955—1960.

A notable feature of the year was the progress in the field of Co-operative Development, set out in some detail in Chapter VIII of Part II of this Report.

Recruitment of staff to Departments responsible for the Social Services improved during 1953. In the field of Education the growth in school population continued; it is estimated that during the past six years there has been an increase of some 66% in the number of children attending schools. It is disappointing that the increase in enrolment during 1953 was not common to all sections of the population; increases in the number of Chinese children attending schools continuing while the numbers of pupils from

indigenous races, other than the Malays, showed only a very small increment. The Batu Lintang Teachers' Training College continued its valuable activities successfully with good results at the end of the academic year. Some research was done at the end of the year into the question of trade and technical institutions; and special reference must be made to the development of facilities for teaching science in Mission Schools. Proportionate expenditure from Government funds upon education showed an increase when compared with previous years, and there were indications that the restrictions upon such expenditure previously imposed by shortage of qualified supervisory staff are beginning to disappear. The Department of Education has borne on its shoulders the greater part of the responsibility for two very promising Community Development schemes, which are referred to later in this Report. Reference must also be made to progress in providing for the out-of-school activities of children and of young people generally in the Playing Fields scheme begun in connection with the George VI Memorial Fund. This fund is being used to prepare playing fields and provide games equipment at the larger centres of population throughout the country; the Government has made contributions to the Fund, which is supported also by matching contributions from local communities capable of managing and maintaining the amenities thus provided.

Recruitment to the higher branches of the Medical Department improved during the year although difficulties in recruiting Junior nursing and health staff continued. New building for medical services included an anti-tuberculosis clinic at Kuching and a new health centre which was not yet complete at the end of the year. A medical project of particular interest and importance was the investigation by the Anti-Malarial Team, led by an officer of the World Health Organisation, described in Chapter IX of Part II of the Report. Chapter IX of the Report also gives in some detail developments in the field of Social Welfare and an account of the activities of the Red Cross Society.

The programme of legislation during the year included the Sarawak Rangers Ordinance, which provided for raising and maintaining a corps of the Sarawak Volunteer Force for military service outside British Borneo. This legislation was introduced to provide military status for Dayaks serving in Malaya and arose from a request by the Federation Government that the recruits previously



so successful as civilian trackers should take a more definitely military part in action against the Malayan terrorists. Some three hundred and eighty natives of Sarawak served in the Rangers during 1953, and there is no doubt that they afforded valuable aid to the Federation Government's military operations.

Sarawak itself continued free from civil violence. There was, unfortunately, evidence that the subversive activities which led to violence in 1952 continued on a scale which brought a considerable proportion of the Chinese population within their scope. There was evidence of the introduction and circulation of subversive literature through channels difficult to identify and control, and of undesirable political propaganda and teaching in some of the Chinese schools.

The dangers of civil disturbance were however undoubtedly reduced by the improvements during the year in the strength, organisation and morale of the Sarawak Constabulary. Recruitment during 1953 showed considerable improvement on that during the preceding three years. Recruitment to the Field Force specifically trained for dealing with civil disturbance went well, and nearly half the Force proposed had completed training or was in training at the end of the year. Improvement in conditions of service, and other factors, have undoubtedly led to a notable improvement in morale. The present approved strength of the Force includes a very high proportion of commissioned officers; a proportion justifiable until the Force reaches a higher standard of training and efficiency.

There was some progress during the year in the field of political and constitutional development. The progress of Local Authorities is dealt with in Chapter VI of Part III of this Report; no new Authorities were constituted during the year but arrangements were completed for changes in the form of certain existing Authorities and the creation of new Authorities early in 1954. The proposals for a revision of the Constitution referred to in detail in the 1952 Report were, during the year, discussed in District and Divisional Councils and other representative meetings. As a result of these discussions certain modifications in the original proposals have been referred to the Secretary of State. The advantages of full and general popular consultation on such issues prior to the introduction of any change have been fully manifested.

The policy of assisting, by Government scholarship or grant, Sarawak citizens to acquire training to fit them for future tenure of senior posts in the Government, or practice of the learned professions, continued during the year. At the end of the year there were seventeen students holding Government sponsored scholarships in the United Kingdom, five in New Zealand and Australia, and ten in Singapore and Malaya; these include six potential engineers, surveyors and architects, and four doctors. One local medical student and one dentist completed their training and joined the Government Service during the year.

There were a number and variety of distinguished visitors to the territory during the year; special reference must be made to a party of eleven visitors from Indonesia, who included representatives of Ministries in Djakarta, the Resident Co-ordinator of West Kalimantan and a number of his officers. Discussions with these officials on a number of subjects of common interest to the two West Borneo Governments were of great value.

An unhappy event at the end of the year was the loss of the Government's Lights and Buoys tender M.V. *Heartsease* which foundered in very bad weather near the mouth of the Rejang River with the loss of six lives.

## PART II





# I

## POPULATION

A FULL-SCALE census was conducted during 1947. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 thereby disclosed was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the numerical proportion of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census:—

<i>Cultural group</i>					<i>Population</i>	<i>Percentage of total population</i>
Sea Dayak	...	...	...	...	190,326	34.8%
Chinese	...	...	...	...	145,158	26.6%
Malay	...	...	...	...	97,469	17.9%
Land Dayak	...	...	...	...	42,195	7.7%
Melanau	...	...	...	...	35,560	6.5%
Other Indigenous	...	...	...	...	29,867	5.5%
Other Non-Indigenous	Asian	...	...	...	5,119	0.9%
European	...	...	...	...	691	0.1%
					<hr/> 546,385 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0% <hr/>

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogeneous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well-

recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans, and Dusuns from North Borneo.

The estimated population at the 31st of December 1953 was 596,790, made up as follows:

Sea Dayaks	...	...	...	...	...	209,950
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164,480
Malays and Melanaus	...	...	...	...	...	137,220
Land Dayaks	...	...	...	...	...	46,760
Other Indigenous	...	...	...	...	...	31,820
Other Non-indigenous	...	...	...	...	...	6,560
						<hr/>
						596,790
						<hr/>



## IMMIGRATION

The policy of restricted immigration was pursued in 1953 and, with the falling price of rubber, there was no shortage of unskilled labour. There was little or no restriction on the entry of persons with specialist qualifications in any walk of life, so long as it could be shown that their presence was in the interests of the development of the country. Because of the construction of several new buildings begun in the middle of the year, the immigration from Singapore of a considerable number of skilled artisans and technical personnel was permitted. They have been allowed to enter only for restricted residence and will return to Singapore when the work is completed.

Chinese families in the country seem now more or less complete and few applications for the entry of the wives and young children of Sarawak residents were received. In the second half of the year there was some family migration from Sarawak to China, but, as the table below shows, a satisfactory balance of immigration and emigration was maintained.

Trading by small craft between Indonesia and Sarawak decreased further in 1953. Singapore vessels called regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri. The anchorage at Tanjong Mani in the Rejang continues to be used by vessels coming to Sarawak to load timber for ports in Hong Kong and Australia. The number of vessels calling for this purpose increased considerably in the last quarter of 1953.

Migration to and from Sarawak during 1953 was as follows:—

					<i>Arrivals</i>	<i>Departures</i>
Chinese	...	...	...	...	5,294	5,301
European	...	...	...	...	1,825	1,685
Malay	...	...	...	...	746	671
Melanaus	...	...	...	...	2	1
Sea Dayak	...	...	...	...	396	719
Land Dayak	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other Indigenous	...	...	...	...	38	14
Other Asian	...	...	...	...	730	714
Total					<u>9,032</u>	<u>9,105</u>





## II

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### OCCUPATION, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANIZATION

IN 1953 there was little change in the general picture of occupation in the country. A great majority of the people continue to be engaged in agriculture; the indigenous tribes are almost all padi farmers but also frequently cultivate small rubber or sago plantations and collect jungle produce such as rattan, jelutong, and damar (resin). The Chinese farmers rely mainly on rubber and pepper, but with the low price of rubber many turned from rubber tapping to padi planting.

There was also a trend among Dayaks to forsake rubber as a cash crop and to seek casual employment in the timber or oil industries or on road work when they were not working on their padi farms.

The expansion of the timber industry provided more employment in 1953 than in 1952: the number of mills increased from 53 to 63. The oil industry continued to recruit Dayak labour from the 2nd and 3rd Divisions for employment at Seria in Brunei and there was never any difficulty in obtaining recruits. This recruitment is for a period, normally of one year, and the work is popular as it enables the innately vagrant native to see new lands and to find many novel experiences.

The Sarawak Oilfields and British Malayan Petroleum Companies, with headquarters at Seria, are the largest employers of labour in Sarawak and Brunei. In 1953 2,612 skilled and 4,096 unskilled workers were employed directly by the companies, and 1,236 skilled and 1,643 unskilled were employed by the Companies' contractors. These were Chinese, Malays, Dayaks and Indians roughly in the proportion of 3:5:2:1.

The construction of public and private buildings in Kuching and the larger towns absorbed considerable numbers of labourers, skilled and unskilled. Sago production, logging, dock work, and the distribution of imported goods made up the rest of the field of organized employment.

There was some recruitment of specialist labour from Hong Kong and Singapore, mainly for construction. There has been an increase in industrial activity in Kuching, in the expansion of the Matang Vegetable Oil Company, a most promising concern, and the establishment of a steam laundry.

The slump in rubber has naturally caused a gradual decrease in wages. At the end of the year the earnings of a rubber tapper on European-owned estates averaged \$2.52 per day compared with \$3.42 at the end of 1952. On the other hand basic rates in the Oilfields were \$6.64 per day for skilled workmen and \$4.08 per day for unskilled compared with \$5.36 and \$3.20 in 1952. The cost of living fell by some 15% in the oilfields during 1953 but remained fairly constant in Kuching.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs continued to act as Protector of Labour. District Officers are *ex officio* Deputy Protectors.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance. This provides protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and it permits inspection of places of employment. The Ordinance also provides protection as required by the International Labour Conventions applied to Sarawak in respect of labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections. This will not be possible until staff can be recruited for the purpose, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak have been drawn up and will be applied by a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

The Labour Ordinance, No. 24 of 1951, came into force on July 1, 1952.

The Weekly Holidays Ordinance was enacted in 1952, and will come into force on a day to be appointed by the Governor by notification in the *Government Gazette*.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1949, came into force on 1st April, 1950.

The number of registered Trade Unions in 1953 was 21. They are developing satisfactorily. The Officers of the Unions are in close touch with the Protector of Labour, who invariably found them willing to accept and act upon his advice.





# III

## PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1952 and 1953 are

		<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Surplus</i>
		\$	\$	\$
Actual 1952	...	54,266,009	28,724,480	25,541,529
Revised Estimates				
1953	... ..	39,219,785	35,629,303	3,590,482

A sum of \$12,000,000 was transferred to the Development Fund from Surplus Balances in 1953 and the estimated General Revenue Balance at 31st December 1953 was \$57,495,121.

### REVENUE

The main heads of Revenue are as follows:—

<i>Ordinary Revenue</i>	<i>Revised Estimate</i> 1953	<i>Actual Revenue</i> 1952
	\$	\$
Customs	21,636,000	23,812,925
Licences, Taxes & Internal Revenue	1,496,600	1,642,848
Fees of Court or office, etc.	505,900	958,475
Departmental Services	521,850	560,245
Reimbursements	329,900	305,601
Land	490,290	474,841
Forests	1,107,290	861,162
Posts and Telegraphs	689,000	664,384
Marine	207,500	196,150
Municipal (Outstations)	239,220	190,616
Revenue from Government Property	530,100	880,008
Interest	1,463,000	2,496,026
Income Tax	9,320,000	19,690,918
Municipal (Kuching)	—	487,690
Total	[38,536,650]	[53,221,889]

*Extraordinary Revenue*

Land Sales ... ..	296,420	274,035
Loan Repayments ... ..	101,000	200,180
War Damage Compensation ...	285,715	569,905
Total ...	<u>\$39,219,785</u>	<u>\$54,266,009</u>

## EXPENDITURE

The Heads of Expenditure are as follows:—

<i>Heading</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1953 \$</i>	<i>Actual 1952 \$</i>
Governor ... ..	115,016	221,034
Rajah's Dependants ... ..	119,859	121,014
Administration, Divisional & District	2,090,944	1,996,037
Agriculture ... ..	715,964	556,830
Audit ... ..	91,558	92,695
Boys Home ... ..	29,306	27,440
Chinese Affairs, Immigration & Labour ... ..	190,700	148,909
Civil Aviation & Meteorological Service ... ..	215,490	148,386
Constabulary ... ..	3,614,514	2,584,046
Contribution to Development Fund	8,900,000	3,500,000
Co-operative Development ... ..	131,045	102,150
Defence & Internal Security ...	200,000	52,277
Education ... ..	888,049	632,476
Forests ... ..	344,362	267,628
Judicial ... ..	220,024	194,487
Land & Survey ... ..	1,902,117	1,128,147
Legal ... ..	73,115	47,391
Local Authorities ... ..	401,754	358,620
Marine ... ..	1,177,949	784,423
Medical ... ..	3,068,535	2,517,391
Miscellaneous Services ... ..	937,909	898,252
Municipality of Kuching ... ..	736,879	864,473
Municipal, 1st Division ... ..	11,280	10,330
Municipal, 3rd Division ... ..	100,664	63,499
Municipal, 4th Division ... ..	103,595	103,089
Museum ... ..	87,127	82,689
Pensions & Gratuities ... ..	1,352,100	1,020,820
Posts & Telegraphs ... ..	1,062,011	872,619
Printing ... ..	516,504	408,766
Prisons ... ..	291,318	300,708
Public Works Department ...	1,432,100	1,407,630





Mrs. R. J. Bettison

A Melanau girl weaving a basket at Sibn



Kuala Oya in the  
Third Division: the  
mouth of the river  
at low tide





Public Works Recurrent ... ..	1,230,700	840,980
Public Works Non-Recurrent ... ..	1,254,405	1,824,601
Secretariat ... ..	800,905	506,338
Trade & Customs ... ..	792,037	647,360
Treasury ... ..	406,807	349,174
War Damage Claims Commission ... ..	—	3,036,718
Losses on Sale of Investments ... ..	—	5,053
Registration of Births & Deaths ... ..	22,661	—
Total ... ..	<u>\$35,629,303</u>	<u>\$28,724,480</u>

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1953

<i>Previous Year</i>	<i>Liabilities</i>	
\$		\$
2,445,988.16	Deposits ... ..	2,409,764.05
	Trading Account—	
	Food Control ... ..	2,842,842.89
14,561,752.36	Special Funds ... ..	13,260,196.65
887,000.43	Current Accounts ... ..	525,808.57
3,431.25	Allotments ... ..	3,742.83
	Drafts & Remittances ... ..	354,989.27
41,398,805.07	General Revenue Balance ... ..	65,904,638.86
<u>\$59,296,977.27</u>		<u>\$85,301,983.12</u>

<i>Previous Year</i>	<i>Assets</i>	
\$		\$
3,529,794.39	Cash ... ..	4,852,667.15
1,216,600.89	Fixed Deposit with Chartered	
	Bank, Kuching ... ..	1,546,010.06
22,285,714.29	Joint Colonial Fund ... ..	47,228,571.43
26,711,063.36	Investments at Market Value ... ..	28,120,576.12
722,293.20	Investments, Special Funds, at	
	Market Value ... ..	993,998.15
1,422,517.04	Trading Account—Food Control	—
1,220,913.55	Advances ... ..	729,270.74
1,569,602.91	Current Accounts ... ..	854,947.44
316,677.20	Drafts & Remittances ... ..	—
221,352.71	Remittances between Chests ... ..	939,033.03
80,447.73	Suspense ... ..	36,909.00
<u>\$59,296,977.27</u>		<u>\$85,301,983.12</u>



## DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND

In addition to a contribution of \$8,900,000 from revenue a sum of \$12,000,000 was transferred from General Revenue Balances to the Development Fund in 1953. At the end of 1953 the estimated balance to the credit of the fund was \$12,603,034.

## DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND ACCOUNT

	<i>Receipts</i>	\$	\$
(A) Actual Receipts to 31.12.1952			
(i) Colonial Development & Welfare grants ... ..	2,781,414		
(ii) Revenue appropriations ...	14,136,564		
(iii) Transfer of Sir C. V. Brooke Education Fund ... ..	428,571		
(iv) Transfer from Currency Fund surplus ... ..	1,000,000		
(v) Revenue from schemes ...	91,313	18,437,862	
(B) Estimated Receipts in 1953			
(i) Colonial Development & Welfare grants ... ..	2,194,521		
(ii) Revenue appropriations ...	20,900,000		
(iii) Revenue from Schemes ...	114,511	23,209,032	
			\$41,646,894
	<i>Expenditure</i>		
Actual Expenditure to 31.12.1952			
(i) Colonial Development & Welfare grants ... ..	3,568,701		
(ii) Colony Funds ... ..	8,275,308	11,844,009	
Estimated Expenditure in 1953			
(i) Colonial Development & Welfare grants ... ..	1,489,797		
(ii) Colony Funds ... ..	15,710,054	17,199,851	
Estimated balance 31.12.53 c/d ... ..		12,603,034	
			41,646,894

Expenditure of \$2,680,645 incurred on Development projects before the beginning of the Development Fund is not included in the foregoing account.

## SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED REVENUE

<i>Items</i>	<i>Estimated Total 1.1.51 to 30.6.57</i>	<i>Estimated Receipts to 31.12.53</i>	<i>Balance</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants ...	16,711,000	5,058,498	11,652,502
Contributions from accumulated surplus-revenue balances for Development Plan Schemes ...	33,500,429	18,500,429	15,000,000
Transfer from Currency Fund Surplus (Part) ...	1,000,000	1,000,000	—
Contributions from annual revenue for Development Plan Schemes ...	2,400,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Loans to be raised ...	5,500,000	—	5,500,000
By transfer of the Sir C. V. Brooke Education Fund ...	428,571	428,571	—
Contribution from North Borneo for Geological Scheme ...	240,000	102,511	137,489
Total Revenue for Plan Schemes ...	[56,780,000]	[26,290,009]	[33,489,991]
Contributions from annual revenue for major capital expenditure ...	19,974,135	14,974,135	5,000,000
Contributions from accumulated surplus-revenue balances for major expenditure ...	362,000	362,000	—
Revenue from Schemes ...	40,750	20,750	20,000
Total ...	<u>\$80,156,885</u>	<u>\$41,646,894</u>	<u>\$38,509,991</u>

## SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

	<i>Total Approved</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.53</i>	<i>Balance to Complete</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
(a) Development Plan Schemes—			
(i) Expenditure from C. D. & W. Grants	5,812,225	3,591,032	2,221,193

## SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE (contd.)

	Total Approved	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.53	Balance to Complete
	\$	\$	\$
(ii) Expenditure from Colony Funds ...	42,358,653	10,973,003	31,385,650
Total, Development Plan Schemes ...	[48,170,878]	[14,564,035]	[33,606,843]
(b) Supplementary Projects—			
(iii) Colony Funds ...	20,984,115	11,799,180	9,184,935
Total, Development, Welfare & Reconstruction Fund Expenditure ...	\$69,154,993	\$26,363,215	\$42,791,778

## ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE—SUMMARISED BY HEADS

Head Title	Total Approved	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.53	Estimated to Complete
	\$	\$	\$
(A)—Development Plan Schemes			
Agriculture ...	1,434,628	974,516	460,112
Broadcasting ...	905,524	300,160	605,364
Civil Aviation ...	392,000	200,000	192,000
Education ...	1,744,380	337,802	1,406,578
Fisheries ...	176,344	76,352	99,992
Forestry ...	392,694	199,978	192,716
Geological ...	1,437,546	337,729	1,099,817
Government Buildings ...	1,829,500	639,085	1,190,415
Housing ...	500,000	—	500,000
Medical ...	1,075,000	370,207	704,793
Port Development ...	3,351,200	353,866	2,997,334
Roads, Bridges & Wharves	20,172,266	7,386,832	12,785,434
Social Welfare ...	70,000	—	70,000
Telecommunications ...	8,635,046	1,728,293	6,906,753
Town Development ...	394,100	187,500	206,600
Water Supplies ...	4,607,000	1,208,914	3,398,086
Waterways ...	280,000	68,989	211,011
Development Staff ...	773,650	193,812	579,838
Total, Development Plan Schemes ...	48,170,878	14,564,035	33,606,843



## ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE—SUMMARY BY HEADS.—(contd.)

<i>Head Title</i>	<i>Total Approved \$</i>	<i>Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.53 \$</i>	<i>Estimated to Complete \$</i>
<b>(B)—Supplementary Projects</b>			
Community Development	345,911	112,711	233,200
Education ... ..	100,000	37,617	62,383
Housing Loans ... ..	647,900	399,790	248,110
Marine ... ..	1,790,064	1,330,064	460,000
Miscellaneous ... ..	186,000	93,000	93,000
Public Works ... ..	16,345,612	9,207,370	7,138,242
Treasury ... ..	291,628	141,628	150,000
Brooke Dockyard ... ..	800,000	—	800,000
Constabulary ... ..	50,000	50,000	—
Medical ... ..	165,000	165,000	—
Printing ... ..	262,000	262,000	—
<hr/>			
Total, Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Fund Expenditure ...	\$ 69,154,993	\$ 26,363,215	\$ 42,791,778
<hr/>			

*Public Debt*

There is no public debt but at 31st December 1953 a sum of \$2,484,500 had been charged to Advances in anticipation of loans to be raised. This sum was spent in the purchase of shares of the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company, Limited, which is now wholly owned by the Government.

*Customs Tariff*

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts namely—Import Duties levied on tobacco, liquor, petroleum products, textiles and a variety of other commodities; and Export Duties levied on rubber, sago, pepper, julutong, illipe nuts, copra, damar and edible birds' nests.

There was no change in the tariff in 1953.

## EXCISE, STAMP DUTIES AND OTHER TAXES

Excise duty is levied on locally manufactured arrack, certain wines, and matches.

### *Stamp Duty*

Stamp duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17), and include a stamp duty on Cheques, Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Agreements, Contracts, Affidavits, Declarations of Trust and Instruments creating an Annuity.

### *Income Tax*

Income Tax is charged, levied and collected under the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance 1949 (No. 16 of 1949) but at present only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in Sarawak or elsewhere. On every dollar of the chargeable income of such company for the year of assessment, tax is levied at the rate of thirty per centum.

### *Trade Licence Fees*

The Trade Licensing Ordinance (No. 17 of 1949) is a corollary of the Income Tax Ordinance and extends a simple form of direct taxation by way of trades licence fees to certain business sections of the community. The amount of the fees to be paid varies considerably according to the nature of the business and the locality in which such business is situated, the fees in rural areas being at a reduced rate. The fees range from \$2,500 per annum for a licence to carry on the business of a banker to \$25 per annum for a licence to carry on the business of a retailer trader not engaged in any import trade and situated in a rural area. Any business the income from which is directly charged with Income Tax is exempted from payment of Trade Licence fees.

### *Head and Door Tax*

Head tax at the rate of \$1 per adult male is paid by all Malays and some Dayaks; most of the Dayak communities pay a "door" tax of \$1 per door, the "door" being the apartment in a Dayak Long house occupied by a single family. In areas where Local Authorities have been established these taxes are collected by the Local Authorities and the Government remits the bulk of the collection to the collecting agents.

### *Entertainment Tax*

A tax is charged on all payments for admission to any entertainment.

*Estate Duty*

Estate Duty is charged upon all estates the value of which exceeds \$1,000 and the rates remain unchanged. They are as follows:—

Where the value of the estate exceeds:—

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$	3,000	...	1	per cent
3,000	5,000	...	1 ½	..
5,000	7,500	...	2 ½	..
7,500	10,000	...	3 ½	..
10,000	20,000	...	5	..
20,000	40,000	...	7 ½	..
40,000	70,000	...	10	..
70,000	100,000	...	15	..
Over 100,000		...	20	.





## IV

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### CURRENCY AND BANKING

#### CURRENCY

Since 1945 Malayan currency only has been issued in Sarawak.

On 31st December, 1953, there were \$28,560,956 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$758,427 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$288,274 in notes and \$470,153 in coins. There was a decrease of \$3,200,000 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$58,474 of Sarawak currency composed of \$25,710 in notes and \$32,764 in coins, were withdrawn during the same period.

#### *Banking*

Banking facilities are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China in Kuching, Sibü and Miri and the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching. In addition, there are four Chinese trading banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank, the Wah Tat Bank and the Hock Hua Bank.

#### *Post Office Savings Bank*

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1953 was 6,085 compared with 5,424 at the end of 1952. The amount of credit to depositors was \$3,074,770.67 as against \$3,102,976.37 in 1952. During the year withdrawals exceeded deposits by \$133,930.62.





## V

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### COMMERCE

**T**HE pattern of commerce in 1953 did not change markedly. It is conducted broadly by the agency houses, small, but increasing, in number, and the Chinese merchants, of which there are many.

The most important agency houses are the leading European companies, but there are also Chinese firms holding valuable agencies. They import from Great Britain, Singapore, or from other countries proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. They hold a number of those important agencies as buyers for their own account, but they also undertake the functions of a branch office of their principals (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods they do insurance and other business, and purchase and export produce in competition with the Chinese merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large rubber estates and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "production" e.g., in the timber business.

The Chinese merchants engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Not all of the firms trading under Chinese names have only Chinese members, but this is generally so. There are a number of Indian merchants trading almost exclusively in textiles.

The trade of Sarawak is still very closely linked with that of Singapore, and comparatively few goods arrive in the country direct from Great Britain, Australia or other sources, i.e., upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally require transshipment in Singapore). Most of the imports are from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots, and most of the general produce of the country goes to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export. Shipments of sago and rubber to other countries are frequent, and most of the territory's exports of oil and timber are shipped to places further away than Malaya; Hong Kong, the United King-

dom and Australia are the principal recipients of the latter commodity.

The import of goods from Great Britain and other distant places is almost entirely with the few European firms, but the whole trade of the country passes, at one stage or other, through the Chinese merchants, who carry on a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are shops engaged solely in the sale of goods for cash (or more often on credit—the system in almost universal use throughout the country), but many combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods. Often the small bazaar shop stocks every commodity its customers could possibly need, a system well suited to the practice of "tying" customers to the shop by extensive credit. The effect is that shops side by side offer for sale virtually the same goods. In up-country bazaars the Chinese merchant must provide lodging in his shophouse for his Dayak and other customers: he is their host, their banker, and their universal supplier.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with firms in Singapore, which supply their goods and receive their produce. Similarly Sarawak firms have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars, and supply them with goods. In return they receive rubber, pepper, and jungle produce by sale or barter. The jungle produce is chiefly rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas, of which jelutong is employed in the manufacture of chewing gum.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs the natives cannot and do not themselves provide are very few; but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims of the people. Valued objects include earthenware jars, large, glazed and urnlike, and brass gongs. Shot-guns and outboard motors are esteemed, both for their utility and the prestige they bring.

Very little weaving is now done locally, so that imported cloth has become almost a necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns very little more than oils and salt for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great a variety of goods is normally to be found



even in the remotest bazaar: so wide are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Some Chinese firms carry on business in the purchase of pepper and sago flour for export, and these are specialised trades. The Department of Trade and Customs grades pepper and sago for export.

### *External Trade*

The value of the external trade of the country for the year 1953 was \$819,640,595 compared with \$821,509,270 for the year 1952, and \$78,415,599 for 1940, before the Japanese occupation.

This is made up as follows:—

	1953	1952
	\$	\$
Total Exports ... ..	424,728,257	438,563,317
Total Imports ... ..	394,912,338	382,945,953
Favourable Trade Balance	<u>\$29,815,919</u>	<u>\$55,617,364</u>

### *Trade Balance*

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$29,815,919 does not, however, show a very clear picture as in the exports of \$424,728,257 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for \$299,580,387.

The value of crude oil piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei in 1953 was \$263,961,744. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak (now only a comparatively small quantity) is also treated at this refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum oil are included in the value of exports.

Disregarding the value of the crude oil from Brunei and Sarawak, the position is as follows:—

	\$
Imports ... ..	130,435,810
Exports ... ..	125,147,870
Deficit ... ..	\$ 5,287,940

This compares with a favourable trade balance of \$19,240,667 in 1952.

Neither the figure of \$29,815,919 or \$5,287,940 is however a true trade balance because the former takes into account oil won in Brunei and the latter omits oil won in Sarawak. There must be taken into account the value of oil won in Sarawak and the "in-



visible export" of the cost of refining, in Sarawak, the oil won in Brunei. It is, however, not possible to value either.

The large decrease in the trade balance, \$25,801,445, as compared with that of 1952 was due to the decline in both the volume and value of rubber exported. It would have been reasonable to expect this decline to have an adverse effect on the prosperity of the country, but the increased value of export crops other than rubber has prevented a serious slump in trade. The value of imports (excluding oil) shows an increase of \$18,174,111 over 1952, and revenue from Import Duties rose in 1953 to \$11.8 million compared with \$10.4 million in 1952.

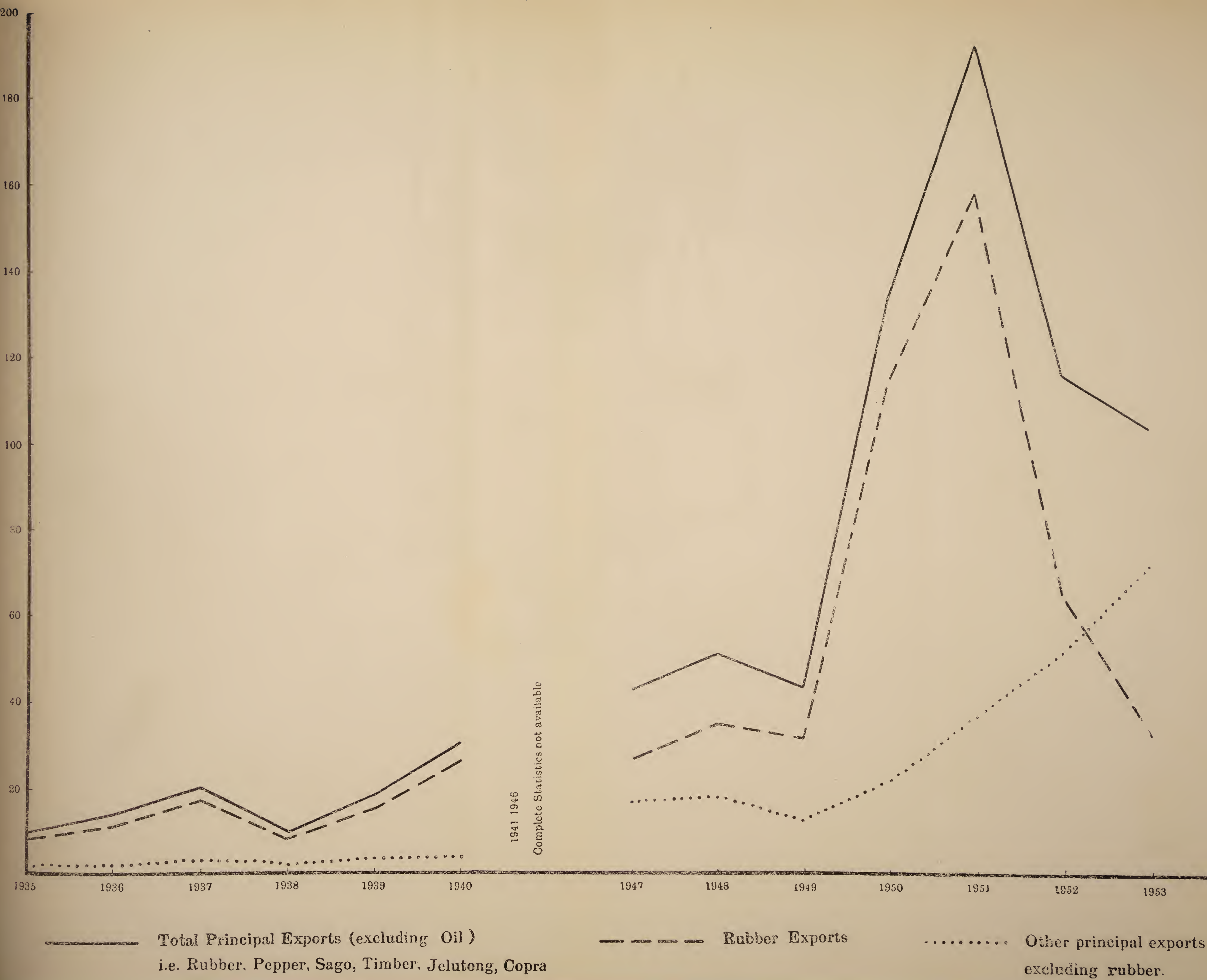
Rubber is still an important export crop, but a great deal of progress has been made in building up alternatives. Comparison of the position in 1947 with 1953 is of interest.

Year	Value of Exports		
	Rubber	Pepper	Timber
	\$	\$	\$
1947	26,084,589	3,213,497	233,508
1953	31,616,358	49,443,086	13,861,976

The facing diagram illustrates the changing economy of Sarawak. Whereas from 1935 to 1940 the total value of Sarawak's principal exports (excluding oil) followed very closely the exports of rubber, 1949 to 1953 show a distinct break away from the previous pattern. In the period 1935 to 1940, rubber represented about 90% of the value of Sarawak's agricultural exports, but in 1953 it accounted for only 31%. In 1953, for the first time, the value of other agricultural exports exceeded that of rubber. In 1950 and 1951 the very high prices received for rubber, and the greatly increased tonnage exported, had a marked effect on the total value of exports. But whereas rubber exports have fallen considerably both in value and volume, the exports of other crops continue to increase. The value of rubber exports has returned to the 1949 level (approximately \$32 million) but the total agricultural exports show an increase of approximately \$60 million over 1949. This is mainly due to the increased exports of pepper and timber.

The apparent adverse trade balance of \$5,287,940, which as stated above does not include the value of oil won in Sarawak, is accounted for mainly by an increase in imports. Exports (excluding oil) fell by only \$6 million whereas imports (again ex-

VALUE IN \$ (Straits) Millions







cluding oil) increased by \$18 million. An analysis of the import figures discloses that this increase is mainly on manufactured goods, and that the imports of foodstuffs have declined. The increases have been mainly in chemicals and drugs, electrical goods and apparatus, iron and steel manufactures, machinery and motor vehicles. Machinery and motor vehicles in particular show large increases. Much of this is due to the increased capital being put into development both by private enterprise and by Government.

### Imports

The declared value of imports for 1953 was \$394,912,338 made up as follows:—

	1953 \$	1952 \$	1940 \$
Foodstuffs ...	43,723,186	48,182,330	9,770,805
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc. ...	7,767,793	6,246,300	2,796,708
Petroleum, crude and refined ...	269,296,550	275,391,485	8,844,626
Tobacco ...	6,802,703	6,549,444	2,556,131
Manufactured goods and sundries ...	67,322,106	46,576,394	8,850,609
	<u>\$394,912,338</u>	<u>\$382,945,953</u>	<u>\$32,818,879</u>

Bazaar trade was not as brisk as in 1952, but was profitable except perhaps again for the textile business. As in 1952 this business suffered indirectly from the virtual closing of the Indonesian and Thailand markets to the Singapore entrepot trade. Singapore textile merchants, with large stocks of textiles which would normally have gone to the Indonesian and Thailand markets, continued to divert quantities, on a consignment basis, to Sarawak. Local merchants already well stocked often had to liquidate stocks at greatly reduced prices and often below cost.

The cost of certain basic foodstuffs, rice, flour, sugar, salt and milk showed a reduction. The respective declared values were:—

	1953	1952
Rice ... ..	\$ 548.47 per ton	\$ 561.71 per ton
Flour ... ..	435.83 per ton	469.56 per ton
Sugar ... ..	461.21 per ton	586.25 per ton
Salt ... ..	54.91 per ton	60.90 per ton
Milk ... ..	1,524.65 per ton	1,545.60 per ton

The 1953 value of rice	was 5.74 times that of 1940
„ flour	„ 3.65 „
„ sugar	„ 2.82 „
„ salt	„ 1.13 „
„ milk	„ 3.09 „

### Exports

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1953, \$424,728,257 was made up as follows:

				as compared with :	
				1952	1940
Petroleum, crude		1953			
and refined	...	\$299,580,387		\$307,060,951	\$11,446,818
Rubber	... ..	31,616,358		65,182,029	26,167,140
Sago flour	... ..	4,371,384		5,954,774	2,184,997
Pepper	... ..	49,443,086		33,031,835	362,569
Jelutong	... ..	2,126,562		2,107,951	775,209
Various guttas	... ..	93,989		236,785	145,930
Damar	... ..	556,911		738,564	88,688
Copra	... ..	1,275,837		1,106,541	70,629
Timber, sawn					
and logs	... ..	13,861,976		8,925,910	89,840
Sundries	... ..	21,801,767		14,217,977	4,438,587
		<u>\$424,728,257</u>		<u>\$438,563,317</u>	<u>\$45,770,407</u>

Exports of rubber were 23,958 tons in 1953 compared with 31,471 in 1952. The drop was due mainly to the lower price of rubber during the year; many producers found it uneconomical to continue tapping at the high rate of the previous years. Although by far the largest proportion of these exports was, as in previous years, shipped with Singapore as the only declared destination, the quantities shipped on through bills of lading to the United Kingdom and to other European countries were maintained.

Exports of sago flour were less than 1952, the 16,073 tons (of which 15,002 tons went to the United Kingdom) against 22,620 in 1952. Only 400 tons went to Holland in 1953 compared with 4,000 tons in 1952. A satisfactory standard of quality was maintained.

Timber has become important in the country's economy with the export for the year of 155,694 tons, 58% more than in 1952.





The Coronation Regatta in Kuching, 1st July 1953: the people at Pangkalan Batu on the Sarawak River, close to the finishing post



The Coronation  
tuba-fishing in the  
Sarawak River, Ku-  
ching, July 1953







G. S. I. S.

In the caves at Niah in the Fourth Division: Ibans climbing the bamboo poles, raised in sections from the ground to the roof, to collect the edible birds' nests.  
The floor is guano



Installing machinery at the new granite quarry at Sebuyau in the Second Division. View from above the quarry works, looking towards Kuala Sebuyau and the sea





48,789 tons went to Hong Kong, 76,265 to the United Kingdom, and 16,007 to Australia.

The rapid recovery of the pepper industry since the war has been remarkable; the acreage of pepper today is greater than the pre-war acreage. The exports for the year, 8,997 tons, were almost double the pre-war peak year of 1934. A new feature of the Sarawak pepper industry is the production of a heavy type of black pepper. This was caused by the narrow price margin between white pepper and this type of black pepper. Producers, especially those who were not lucky enough to have the facilities to enable them to produce high quality white pepper, found it to their advantage to produce black. Eighty-five per cent of the total pepper exported during the year was black; in pre-war years it used to be 10%, and in 1952 was 50%. Exports of black pepper to the United States of America alone rose from 18 tons in 1952 to 1,315 tons in 1953.

Exports of petroleum (crude and refined) were 4,807,389 tons in 1953 compared with 4,951,942 tons in 1952. It is not possible, for reasons already given, to assess the true value to the country's economy of these exports. Crude oil won in Sarawak amounted to 49,057 long tons against 49,944 long tons in 1952.

### *Cargo Tonnage*

The tonnage of cargo discharged and loaded for the year 1953 was as follows:—

		<i>Discharged</i>		<i>Loaded</i>	
		<i>Cargo</i>	<i>Oil in bulk</i>	<i>Cargo</i>	<i>Oil in bulk</i>
Kuching	Tons	70,863	1,156	39,512	—
Sibu	,,	38,136	387	29,973	—
Sarikei	,,	9,598	—	8,621	—
Binatang	,,	3,757	—	2,534	—
Tanjong Mani	,,	181	—	105,948	—
Miri	,,	11,963	—	8,904	4,679,964
Bintulu	,,	538	—	15,773	—
Limbang	,,	1,529	—	2,515	—
Lawas	,,	526	—	4,516	—
Sundar	,,	231	—	962	—
Total	,,	137,322	1,543	219,258	4,679,964

With the development of the timber trade, particularly in the Rejang River area, the use of Tanjong Mani, at the mouth of the Rejang River, for loading has further increased: 67 vessels called there in 1953 compared with 49 in 1952. There has recently been a demand to declare Tanjong Mani a port for general cargo as well as for timber.

### Customs Revenue

The Customs revenue for 1953 amounted to \$22,584,635 made up as follows:—

			as compared with:	
			1952	1940
Export Duties	...	\$10,801,037	\$12,813,569	\$1,278,254
Import Duties	...	11,783,598	10,391,831	2,252,028
			\$22,584,635	\$3,530,282

The drop in Customs revenue was due mainly to the decrease in the quantity and value of rubber exported during the year although much of the leeway was made up by the increased export of pepper. The duty from this source collected during 1953 was \$3,689,306 compared with \$7,677,544 in 1952. The export duty on rubber is on a sliding *ad valorem* scale.

### Tariffs

There were no alterations in the Customs Tariffs in 1953.

### Excise

There was little change from 1952 in the Excise revenue, the sources being still three distilleries and a match factory. Collections were, however, very disappointing and revenue dropped from \$606,605 in 1952 to \$512,262 in 1953. One reason for this may be the large increase in the import of beer but it may also be that illicit distilling has increased. That there is much illicit distilling was amply proved in 1953. From time to time information of illicit stills is received and almost always the information has led to the discovery of a still and its destruction.

Work at the distilleries is on the same lines as in 1952 and the system has proved very satisfactory. Many junior Customs Officers have now had experience of this work and do it very well.



*Trade Statistics*

Sarawak adopted the Standard International Trade Classification from the end of 1953. Much work was done in 1953 to prepare for the change. Statistical machinery has been ordered for the Customs Department and will be installed in 1954. It will then be possible to give up-to-date trade statistics shortly after the period to which they relate.

*Comparative Statement of Imports and Exports*

		1953	1952	1940
Exports	...	\$424,728,257	\$438,563,317	\$45,770,407
Imports	...	394,912,338	382,945,953	32,645,192
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$819,640,595	\$821,509,270	\$78,415,599
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

	1953		1952	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Beans and peas ...	...	tons	1,135	\$ 616,393
Biscuits ...	...	"	1,429	1,575,062
Boots and shoes ...	...	doz. pairs	27,971	669,393
Butter and cheese ...	...	tons	77	297,395
Cloth—cotton, silk and woollen ...	...	sq. yards	5,540,086	3,263,184
Clothing—cotton, silk and woollen ...	...	dozens	70,967	727,000
Coffee—raw and ground	...	tons	326	960,531
Crockery and glassware	...			717,756
Cycles, motor cycles and accessories ...	...			1,029,957
Chemicals and drugs ...	...			3,235,923
Electrical goods and apparatus ...	...			2,892,965
Fish, dried, salted and in tins ...	...	tons	2,591	3,021,541
Flour, wheat ...	...	"	3,216	1,401,628
Fruits, fresh dried and preserved ...	...	"	1,361	1,421,239
Iron, steel, etc., and manufactures thereof ...	...			7,544,270
Machinery ...	...			13,019,190
Milk, condensed, sterilized, etc., ...	...	"	2,084	3,177,379
Motor lorries, cars and accessories ...	...			4,353,611
			2,053	3,188,034
			1,068	1,197,532
			2,554	2,945,534
			2,799	1,314,444
				1,178,553
				2,769,322
				1,294,683
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DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS—continued

	1953		1952	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Oil—lubricating, kerosene, benzine, crude and liquid fuel ...	4,818,679	268,781,766	5,011,156	274,949,047
Petroleum gas—natural ...	2,056,127,061	514,784 cu. ft.	1,769,740,000	442,438
Rice ...	21,667	11,883,750 tons	28,302	15,704,625
Salt ...	3,695	202,825 "	3,786	230,548
Soap ...		913,927		672,881
Stationery and books ...		721,224		723,190
Sugar ...	8,332	3,842,810	6,981	4,092,690
Tea ...	139	602,369	131	648,610
Twine and threads ...		601,215		951,124
Tobacco in tins, cigars and cigarettes ...	1,081,152	6,182,599 lbs.	1,140,892	5,938,964
Vegetables, fresh salted and preserved ...	1,760	1,567,097 tons	1,489	1,459,583
Wines and spirits ...	399,673	2,515,062 gals.	364,499	2,548,652

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Betelnuts (areca nuts) ...	11	\$ 3,105 tons	10	\$ 2,622
Beeswax ...	1 1/4	3,185 "	1	2,538
Birds nests, edible ...	6	28,803 "	6 1/4	33,621
Canes ...		84,443		121,364
Copra ...	2,635	1,275,837 "	2,612	1,106,541
Damar ...	2,450	556,911 "	2,236	738,564

## DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS—continued

		1952			
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Fish, fresh, dried and	tons				
salted ...	...	114	136,484	65	85,397
Gutta—jangkar ...	"	54	76,481	75	110,937
jelutong, raw ...	"	144	113,417	154	161,305
" refined ...	"	559	1,540,044	585	1,375,509
" pressed ...	"	267	473,101	328	571,137
Gutta-percha ...	"	4	14,594	18	110,542
Nipah sugar ...	"	70	21,247	99	31,417
Oil—vegetable ...	"	611	501,918	600½	353,793
crude petroleum (in-	.				
cluding bunkers) ...	"	2,789,506	180,359,150	3,077,254	194,793,279
refined (including					
bunkers ...	"	2,017,506	119,221,237	1,874,688	112,267,612
Pepper ...	"	8,997	49,443,086	4,012½	33,031,835
Prawns, dried ...	"	129	263,373	57	144,212
Rattans ...	"	394	108,479	817	235,161
Rubber, plantation ...	"	23,958	31,616,358	31,471	65,182,029
Sago flour ...	"	16,073	4,371,384	22,620	5,954,774
Timber ...	"	155,694	13,861,976	98,309	8,925,910
Cutch ...	cwts.	26,410	845,198	13,957	480,293



# VI

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## LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

### ORGANISATION AND STAFF

THE Land and Survey Department is responsible for the control of land alienation and tenure and the registration of rights to land. The method of such control through Land and Survey Departmental offices and numerous Administrative District and Sub-District offices remains unchanged and is set out in the Annual Report for 1951.

During 1953 the working of the Department has been somewhat handicapped by the shortage of trained technical and clerical staff. The following steps were taken to alleviate the position :

(a) Instruction courses were held during the year for pupils with low academic qualifications and twenty-two were passed out as proficient prismatic compass demarcators and four as being capable of undertaking second class theodolite control surveys. These pupils were in the main selected from the Department's casual labour staff.

(b) Students from Kuching schools were taken on conducted tours of the Kuching offices by Senior officers and the functions of the Department explained to them. Several of these students applied for and have been given positions with the Department.

(c) A partially successful recruiting campaign was conducted throughout Sarawak and overseas.

The Department should henceforward be able to reduce substantially its post-war arrears in land alienation and control surveys, and the computing and preparation of cadastral sheets, and also to expand its aerial mapping section.

Promising members of the junior staff were given overseas training as follows :

(a) An officer went to New Zealand under the Colombo Plan Technical Training Scheme for four months to study Land Registration and cognate subjects.

(b) An officer went to New Zealand under the same scheme for two years' training in land surveying with the Lands and Survey Department.

(c) An officer is studying, under a four year scholarship, for the Diploma in Surveying at Kuala Lumpur Technical College.

#### REVIEW OF LAND DISPOSITIONS FOR 1953

Applications for land during the year were 6,764 for a total of 30,938 acres, compared with 6,816 applications for 33,361 acres in 1952.

The 1953 applications were as follows:—

<i>Purpose</i>					<i>Acres</i>	<i>Number of Allocations</i>
Building	...	...	...	...	257	304
Rubber	...	...	...	...	8,587	1,434
Coconut	...	...	...	...	1,554	256
Pepper	...	...	...	...	1,759	727
Sago	...	...	...	...	5,414	844
Padi	...	...	...	...	6,048	1,486
Other Agricultural	...	...	...	...	6,443	1,654
Cattle Grazing	...	...	...	...	700	37
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	176	22
					<hr/> 30,938 <hr/>	<hr/> 6,764 <hr/>

Applications for land for rubber planting were much the same as for 1952. This is due to the steady progress in the block planting scheme referred to in the 1952 Annual Report.

There was an increase of 239 in the applications for land on which to plant sago, but otherwise the figures show little alteration from 1952.

A group of Cantonese settlers at Salim, near Sibu, cleared some 300 acres of inferior rubber, to use the land cleared for planting padi.





GSIS

A water-colour of Santubong Mountain and the Anglican Mission bungalow, painted and inscribed in about 1855 by Harriette McDougall, wife of Francis McDougall, first Bishop of Labuan. The original painting was given in 1953 by the grandchildren of Francis and Harriette McDougall to the present Bishop of Borneo, by whose kind permission it is reproduced







*Applications dealt with*

Applications outstanding from 1952	...	...	6,593
Applications received in 1953	...	...	6,764
Applications dealt with in 1953	...	...	6,776

The applications dealt with were disposed of as follows:—

(a) Surveyed for titles issued	...	...	5,027
(b) Land already surveyed	...	...	630
(c) Cancelled, withdrawn etc.	...	...	1,095
(d) Titles issued without survey	...	...	24

Applications outstanding at the end of the year are 6,593, a decrease of 86 on 1952.

*Transactions in alienated land*

7,931 instruments were registered during the year as follow :

Transfer	...	...	...	3,685
Charges	...	...	...	1,351
Release of charges	...	...	...	826
Sub-leases	...	...	...	104
Affidavits	...	...	...	25
Surrender to the Crown	...	...	...	390
Letters of Administration	...	...	...	401
Caveat	...	...	...	204
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	506
Power of Attorney	...	...	...	108
Transmission by Probate in cases of small estates	...	...	...	331

*Issue of titles for Crown Land*

6,536 leases and 210 temporary occupation licences were issued during the year, following approved applications making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1953 126,611.

*Miscellaneous Surveys and Inspections*

Requests for the sub-division of alienated land were 491. Miscellaneous inspections of land were 869.

## LAND CLASSIFICATIONS DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT

*Mixed Zone and Native Areas*

The following areas were constituted under the Land Classification Ordinance during the year :

<i>Mixed Zone</i>				<i>Area</i>
1st Division	...	...	...	11.18 acres
2nd Division	...	...	...	11.49 acres
3rd Division	...	...	...	1.25 acres
4th Division	...	...	...	903.36 acres
5th Division	...	...	...	281.00 acres

<i>Native Area Land</i>				
1st Division	...	...	...	956.45 acres
2nd Division	...	...	...	Nil
3rd Division	...	...	...	0.91 acres
4th Division	...	...	...	Nil
5th Division	...	...	...	Nil

The following ceased to be Native Area Land and became Mixed Zone Land:

1st Division	...	...	...	8.45 acres
2nd Division	...	...	...	8.09 acres
3rd Division	...	...	...	136.49 acres
4th Division	...	...	...	61.98 acres
5th Division	...	...	...	Nil

The following ceased to be Mixed Zone Land and became Native Area Land:

				<i>Area</i>
1st Division	...	...	...	Nil
2nd Division	...	...	...	Nil
3rd Division	...	...	...	Nil
4th Division	...	...	...	2.36 acres
5th Division	...	...	...	Nil

The total areas of each category in the country are now:

(i) Mixed Zone where both natives and non-natives may hold land under title: about 4,281 square miles.

(ii) Native Areas where only natives of Sarawak may hold land under title: about 933 square miles.

The rest of Sarawak, about 41,786 square miles, is Interior Area and Native Area Land where, apart from forestry and mining operations, the only land use is native farming. This land is generally remote from the main centres of trade and the planting industry. General administrative control only is exercised over those farming lands.



Much time has been devoted to preliminary investigations in connection with the reclassification of land as Mixed Zone and Native Areas in Districts of the Fourth Division. These should be completed and gazetted during the year 1954.

### *Settlement Operations*

Steady progress has been made in making land available for rubber planting under the block system in the Third Division. Briefly the procedure adopted was as follows:—

(a) Some fifteen blocks of land of areas ranging from 500 acres to 2,500 acres were selected. If native rights were in existence arrangements were made for their extinguishment by monetary payment, after consultation with the *bona fide* claimants. If millable timber is on the land further action is held up until the timber is extracted under a Licence from the Forestry Department.

(b) Chinese Area and Native Headmen were advised of the land available and with their assistance applications for land were received from persons who could prove that they genuinely desired land for rubber planting. No one person was allowed more than ten acres.

(c) The periphery of a block of land under application was marked and the applicants authorised to fell and burn the jungle. After the burning of the jungle cadastral surveys were made and the Lease of Crown Land registered. At the end of the year applications for 3,090 acres had been received.

The Government has acquired from the Custodian of Enemy Property, at a cost of \$135,000, 28 parcels of land with an area of 2,046 acres. This land will be used to settle Chinese in the First Division, where there is a genuine shortage of land.

On the 27th April, 1953, a Settlement Officer, First Division, was appointed, to work under the Land Settlement Ordinance.

By the end of the year he had accepted claims to some 1,650 lots in the Sadong-Samarahan area. Land utilisation surveys and investigations are being made in conjunction with Settlement Operations.

## SURVEYS AND MAPPING

*Cadastral Surveys*

Field work undertaken during the year in connection with all types of surveys is as follows:—

*Country Land*

Prismatic compass boundary survey: 2,657 miles, 8,205 lots @ \$22.62 per lot.

Theodolite control traverses: 550 miles @ \$162.63 per mile.

*Town Land*

Theodolite survey of lots: 5,040 chains 333 lots @ \$3.23 per chain and \$48.96 per lot.

Theodolite survey queries etc.: 1,1,052 chains @ \$3.81 per chain.

Miscellaneous cadastral surveys and inspections without survey: 4,043 lots @ \$17.80 per lot.

The cadastral charting on record sheets for the year consisted of the following:

Number of Theodolite Traverses: computed for charting 81; charted 76.

New lots charted	...	...	8,387
Revision charting	...	...	7,267

Arrears of office work:—

(a) Theodolite traverses awaiting action:

For computation	...	...	67
For charting	...	...	96

(b) Lots awaiting charting: 2,995.

*Topographical Surveys*

Topographical work carried out during 1953 is as follows:—

River survey: 348 chains @ \$—.88 per chain.

Compass traverse: 37 miles @ \$61.59 per mile.

Levelling: 49 miles @ \$139 per mile.

Ground control for air photo mapping.

Field Identification of Trig points: 13 points.



Because of operational commitments the Royal Air Force did no air photography in Sarawak. It is hoped that they will be able to resume operations in 1954.

### *Topographical Mapping*

Work on the 1/50,000 regular series of maps continued during the year at the Directorate of Colonial Surveys. Early in 1953 bromide proof sheets of the first 11 sheets, covering parts of the First and Second Divisions, were received. One sheet only, 1-110-6 (Kuching), has reached the printing stage. A proof copy of this sheet was received in December 1953 and supplies of this sheet are expected early in 1954.

To make a complete series of maps covering the whole country on a reasonably large scale, the limited resources of the small mapping section have been concentrated on the production of preliminary 2 mile sheets. Six of the complete series of eighteen sheets have been published but two of these show little detail and will require revision. A further six sheets have been drawn and sent to various officers for the checking of names of topographical details. Five sheets have been drawn and are awaiting naming, and 3 sheets are partly drawn. Favourable comments on the accuracy and reliability of these maps have been received from two officers who have used them to follow in the *ulu* routes in their travels in the Fourth Division. In 1954 a start will be made in re-drawing these sheets for lithographic reproduction. In the meantime photostat copies can be supplied on request.

Compilation was begun of a 1/500,000 series map of Sarawak consisting of two sheets. These will take the place of the old eight miles to one inch sheets of Sarawak, now out of print. This new map will be an ideal wall map for offices and schools, and will be ready for reproduction early in 1954.

The compilation of air photo mosaics on the scale of 1/25,000 has continued. During the year 49 new sheets covering 3,840 square miles were compiled and 34 old mosaic sheets were revised and amended as a result of additional photography in 1951 and 1952. The total area covered by mosaics on the scale of 1/25,000, following the regular sheet lines of the 1/50,000 series is 24,290 square miles. Besides these regular mosaics, about 22,000 square miles of the interior of Sarawak from Ulu Ai to Ulu Trusan have been covered by uncontrolled photo laydowns at photo

scale. These uncontrolled photo laydowns will if required be split into regular mosaic sheets.

### *Mining*

3 general prospecting licences and 16 panning licences were issued during the year. No exclusive prospecting licences were issued and those extant at the beginning of the year for bauxite prospecting were surrendered during the year. A total area of 3,939 acres is still held under mining leases for gold (25 leases). This has been the only mining activity, with a production of some 417 fine ounces.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

During the year legislation governing the sub-division of property was drafted with a view to submission to the Legislature in 1954.

Under this Bill no land owner will be permitted to sub-divide his property except in accordance with a scheme of sub-division approved by the Local Authority having jurisdiction over the area in which the land is situated. The Local Authority may insist upon a certain part of the land being dedicated free of cost for road reserves, on spaces, reserves etc. It may also demand that roads, footpaths, sewerage and storm water drains be constructed at the expense of the owner.

### *Kuching*

There was considerably increased activity in building operations during 1953. The relationship between housing and other building development remaining much the same as in 1952, 61% of all approved applications being for residential premises. The standard of housing construction is improving but the high costs retard both the standards and the rate of development. An increasing awareness of the value of building sites is reflected in the preference for smaller curtilages.

Projects for housing Government staff developed both within and immediately outside the municipal limits. The Government built 53 houses in the Kuching District.



Land was acquired in a residential area for a local authority housing scheme and building should start in 1954. The first scheme provides for 200 houses.

Despite this progress in construction and in planning, the housing position remains unsatisfactory. It has probably deteriorated further as a result of the drift of people from country to town dwelling.

The adoption by the Supreme Council in 1952 of the Master Plan for Kuching provided the skeleton within which localised town building could proceed. Without a Municipal Surveyor it was found impracticable to plan local development under the Town and Country Planning Ordinance; but some progress was made in breaking away from the traditional style of shophouse development.

#### *Simanggang Bazaar*

A new layout has been surveyed, filling has been completed, and rebuilding is in progress.

#### *Limbang Bazaar*

A new layout has been surveyed, excavation has been completed and rebuilding is in progress.

#### *Berkenu Bazaar*

A new bazaar, kampong and residential area has been surveyed at Berkenu upriver from the Sibuti Bazaar. The Sibuti Bazaar has been demolished and a new bazaar built at Berkenu.

#### *Miri*

After protracted negotiations between Sarawak Oilfields Limited and the Government an agreement has been signed defining the land in the vicinity of the Miri Bazaar which is excepted from the Company's concession area. A scheme providing for residential lots within the excepted area has been drawn up and a survey will take place in 1954. An application has been submitted for approval to expend from Development Funds the sum of \$330,000 on developing this residential area for the benefit of the occupants of sub-standard dwellings in the environs of the Miri Bazaar.

*Sibu*

A scheme has been prepared to move Kampong Pulau from the island on to land acquired for this purpose on the mainland. The area vacated will be reserved for hospital and bazaar extensions and for recreational purposes. It is hoped to start operations on stage one which includes demolishing the present kampong, constructing roads, installing sewers etc. on the new site in 1954. An application for the sum of \$720,000 from Development Funds to be spent on this stage has been made.

*Rejang*

A new kampong and residential area has been laid out. A scheme for a new bazaar is in hand. Several small bazaars have been laid out in the up-river areas of the Second Division.



110° 111° 112° 113° 114° 115°

# SARAWAK

LAND UTILIZATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mile 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles

## LEGEND

Forest Areas .....  
Plantation Areas .....  
Blank Spaces indicate Shifting Cultivation

SEA

CHINA

NORTH BORNEO



110° 111° 112° 113° 114° 115°









G. S. I. S

Drying pepper in the sun, with a pepper garden in the background, at Semegok, First Division





Abang Husaini bin Datu Dol

Tua Kampong Mat Salleh in his pepper garden at Engkilili in the Second Division



## VII

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### PRODUCTION

#### AGRICULTURE

**A**BOUT 5,600 square miles of the flat delta and coastal regions are deep peat swamps at or near sea level. Most of this land is unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes, and it would probably be impracticable and uneconomic to reclaim much of it for wet padi cultivation. But there are considerable areas of moderately good wet padi land, estimated at a total of not more than 2,000 square miles, mainly on the river banks in the delta areas.

The interior is largely steep hills and mountains. Flat land is occasionally found between the hills but its area is small and it is generally difficult to reach from the coastal areas. The soils are for the most part extremely thin and poor by ordinary standards and their poverty has frequently been aggravated by severe erosion and leaching. There are scattered outcrops of basic and intermediate igneous rocks and of limestones and where these are found there is a marked local improvement in the quality of the alluvial soils, but unfortunately the extent of the good alluvial soils is comparatively small.

Favourable climatic conditions do in some measure counteract the poverty of the soils, and wherever there is even a moderate depth of reasonably friable soil vegetative growth is often surprisingly vigorous, particularly if small dressings of fertilisers are applied by special methods being developed by the Department of Agriculture.

The average annual rainfall is 160 inches; in the south-west there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February. In the north-east the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is more uniform. Very heavy local storms account for a great deal of the rainfall and these storms sometimes cause

disastrous and unexpected floods which may well be one of the main reasons for the limited development of agriculture in the past and unfortunately the limited areas of good alluvial soil are all too often particularly subject to serious flooding. Heavy rainfall is often succeeded by short dry hot periods and vegetation on the thin poor soils then quickly gives the impression of a prolonged drought. Shade temperatures average 80°F and daily minima below 70°F or maxima above 90°F are seldom recorded. Atmospheric humidity is generally high, but, particularly in dry spells, there is a marked drop in relative humidity in the afternoon. Sunshine records have only recently started, but it seems that the average for the country will be only five hours bright sunshine daily, and perhaps less.

Pest damage on crops can be extremely serious. Observations suggest that insect pests may be more serious than fungoid pests, though it is possible that as cultivation grows more intensive, fungoid pests may become a greater menace. Small animals, particularly rats and squirrels, are a major pest, and wild pigs, monkeys and deer can also do considerable damage. Giant snails are also becoming a pest of increasing importance. Small birds do much damage to standing padi crops and are becoming increasingly troublesome on grain crops.

Except for five large rubber estates, small farms are the basis of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the native farmer to develop agriculture by a mixed system of farming, rather than by large specialised plantations. It is now agreed that if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, some control over the farmer will be necessary, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of "group farming" units. The prospects for the development of co-operative societies for the country's rural industries are promising.

There was an improvement in the staff position of the Department of Agriculture during the year, with the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture, a Veterinary Officer and a Rubber Regulation Officer, but the sudden death of a most promising Assistant Agricultural Officer has been acutely felt. Development work is still limited by the shortage of trained junior staff, despite a quite successful course at the Staff Training School established in 1951 with assistance from the Colonial



Development and Welfare Fund. Nine candidates passed the final examination of the course for entry into the Agricultural Assistant Grade. Towards the end of the year, recruitment began for the next Agricultural Assistants course and there seems to be a general improvement both in the quality and numbers of candidates. In the past many of the students recruited came from the Department. This increased their value, but did not add to the number of men available.

The Department concentrates on preliminary surveys and investigations made necessary by the dearth of information about agricultural conditions. Good progress is being made on development schemes at selected Development Centres throughout the country. These are the focal points of the Department's work and accommodation for visiting farmers has been extended at several. Bringing farmers to live and work at the Centres has great advantages in a country where communication is difficult. Most of the centres now show strikingly what can be done by stabilised intensive methods of farming instead of the shifting land-robbing now all too common. There is little doubt that Sarawak could safely support a very much higher population than the 2½ million limit which has been suggested above if the methods advocated by the Department were widely adopted, particularly in the sound use of fertilisers, a limited amount of farm machinery and the adoption of sound methods of pest control.

#### CROP REPORTS

##### *Padi*

Rice is Sarawak's staple foodstuff and padi is the main crop. The export of rice or padi is not permitted. Sarawak could be self-supporting in rice. When prices for the main export products are low and there is little money available in the rural areas for buying imported rice, the country does approach self-sufficiency. When prices of export products are high interest in padi planting (particularly wet padi) wanes and the country may become dependent on imports for as much as half its rice.

Imports of rice since the war have been :—

1947 —	19,272	metric tons
1948 —	17,525	„ „
1949 —	11,517	„ „

1950 — 25,478	metric tons
1951 — 31,907	„ „
1952 — 28,723	„ „
1953 — 25,878	„ „

The Government has operated a padi purchasing scheme since 1946 and has guaranteed a minimum buying price for locally grown padi.

Shifting dry padi cultivation on the hills accounts for much of the padi produced. When adequate bush fallows are observed this is not an unsound way of using poor hill land for food production where the use of fertilisers is not practicable. When misused the method is very destructive and it leads to very serious problems in the conservation of natural resources. Authority to control and rationalise the practice is under the Natural Resources Ordinance of 1950 and is being applied where the people realise the need for control. Because of scattered, patchy and variable hill padi cultivation and the difficulties of communication it is impossible to obtain accurate statistics but it is estimated that secondary jungle and scrub cleared in a good year is about 500,000 acres. Under favourable conditions surprisingly high yields of good quality padi are obtainable under the system, but there are often poor crops and even complete failures. Average yields do not exceed 100 gantangs (gallons) of padi per acre.

Wet padi is cultivated mainly in the delta and coastal areas. Methods are primitive. They vary from a true swamp cultivation to semi-wet extensive cultivation on riverbank levees. Intensive annual cultivation with effective water control is not commonly found. Yields are low. The average is not more than 200 gantangs per acre. The acreage of wet padi varies considerably from year to year but the maximum planted each year is about 200,000 acres.

There is great scope for increasing cultivation on wet padi land, particularly by improved water control. Much can be done to conserve rain falling on the fields by building small bunds but irrigation is also necessary. The construction and operation of major water control works is difficult but a well known firm of consulting engineers is investigating the possibility of designing and constructing such works.



The 1952/53 harvest was very satisfactory indeed. Acreages were increased and crops were good. Because of the sharp drop in rubber prices, the acreage of padi planted in 1953/54 increased again and good yields may be expected.

### *Rubber*

Rubber is the chief tree crop and most important agricultural export. Most of the rubber is old seedling in very poor condition and a wasting asset. Management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard.

The fall in rubber prices of 1952 continued in 1953. Eventually slump conditions prevailed and many small holdings were abandoned because owners or workers sought more lucrative employment. For the first time in recent years rubber was no longer the most valuable export crop. It was displaced by pepper. Figures for the last three years show the decline:—

#### *Rubber Exports (to the nearest ton)*

1951	42,521
1952	31,461
1953	23,958

The proportion of lower grades of rubber offered for sale declined slightly from 1952, as shown by the following estimated figures from Kuching. This was probably largely because less efficient producers went out of business.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
RSS 1	8%	3%
RSS 2	18%	19%
RSS 3	44%	54%
RSS 4	18%	14%
RSS 5	12%	10%

These figures are in striking contrast with returns from the Kuap Demonstration Factory of the Department of Agriculture which produced 97% RSS 1 in 1953.

Interest in replanting rubber and in taking up new land for rubber, still keen in 1952, has largely gone. This is particularly unfortunate now that a Rubber Regulation Officer is again available to help in this work. But it may be possible, as a result of lull in the acute demand for rubber land, to plan the redevelopment of the more promising areas more soundly.

In July 1953 the Government, through its Rubber Fund Committee, acquired the former Japanese-owned Samarahan Estate, of some 4,063.35 acres, and the Rubber Fund Committee is now developing it. This estate should produce about 500,000 budded stumps (T.J. 1 clone) annually in future, for sale to the public, and a training school is being organised on it to provide instruction in all branches of modern estate practice for small holders and operatives. The estate will gradually be rehabilitated and revenue from it will return to the Rubber Fund for the general benefit of the industry.

### *Sago*

There was about 150,000 acres under sago cultivation, chiefly in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the 3rd Division but with fairly large areas in parts of the 2nd Division. Detailed information about the number, age, and condition is not available, but including land under fallow and occupied by young immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres are under productive sago. Yield per acre is not high and the methods of extracting the flour are sometimes primitive and the quality of the product poor.

The total export of 16,073 tons for 1953 was nearly 30% less than for 1952 (22,620 tons). This was probably very largely due to a lack of mature sago palms caused by heavy over-cutting when prices were high. Another cause was undoubtedly the lower export prices for sago flour which fell to \$9.50 per picul on the Kuching market for a short period in August. The market rallied somewhat after this but never regained the 1952 level.

Since the passing of the Sago Flour (Control of Exports) Ordinance 1948 the export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited. The scheme has worked reasonably well but some difficulties arose in 1953 because of uncertainty about the standard. After discussions with the trade, and a clarification of the functions of the recently enlarged Committee responsible for recommending standards, these difficulties have, it is hoped, been overcome.

A technical investigation being made in co-operation with the Imperial Institute and large users in the United Kingdom suggest that Sarawak sago flour possesses valuable technical properties not possessed by other starches, and that these properties



are particularly useful in the packaged food trade. The investigation is being followed up, for these special properties may easily keep Sarawak sago flour clear of the slump threatening in world markets for other starches. Some progress has been made in increasing supplies of a flour to meet certain special requirements in the food trade: this special flour is now known as "high viscosity" flour.

### *Pepper*

This was an important export product for many years before the war. Quality was excellent and the best grade commanded the highest prices offered in the world markets. During the Japanese occupation practically all the gardens were abandoned but there has been a remarkable recovery in the industry and production now far exceeds pre-war levels. Before the war most of the vines were planted in small gardens, often of less than half an acre, but recently there has been a tendency to amalgamate into large units. The industry is still mainly in Chinese hands but Dayaks are showing interest in the crop.

The export of pepper in 1953, of 8,997 tons, was a record and, considering that the tonnage exported represented an increase of over 124% on 1952 figures, prices maintained a surprisingly high level. When the new crop first came on the market in August, Kuching prices fell below \$250 per picul for white pepper and to just above \$200 per picul for black, but after some slight fluctuation, the market gradually steadied at about \$265 per picul for white and \$235 per picul for black.

The small margin between white and black pepper prices, coupled with an increasing demand for the latter, resulted in a greatly increased proportion of the production being prepared in the black form. In 1952 production of the two types was more or less equal; in 1953 approximately 85% of the crop was prepared as black pepper.

#### TONS EXPORTED

	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Total</i>
1952	1,992	2,010	4,002
1953	1,391	7,606	8,997

Pepper planting on an extremely heavy scale took place under the stimulus of excellent post-war prices and these figures show that an even greater acreage than had been thought possible was planted. Interest in this crop is still keen. Large acreages particularly in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Divisions are now coming into bearing and new plantings are extensive.

This continued interest in pepper planting will probably maintain the present level of exports in spite of the ravages of "Sudden Death" disease. This is a so far unidentified disease of great virulence and wide-spread, particularly in the First Division. The potential danger was first recognised late in 1952, and in 1953 it was investigated by a Plant Pathologist from the School of Botany in the University of Cambridge. A full report of his findings had not been received at the end of 1953 but his recommendation for a more thorough investigation of the disease (which has assumed serious proportions in some areas) is being carried out.

In parts of the First and Fourth Divisions it was necessary to order certain pepper gardeners (under the Natural Resources Ordinance), to take anti-erosion precautions. The response to these instructions was satisfactory, except for difficulties in the Serian area which involved several Court cases. Slight amendments in the legislation may be required to prevent a recurrence of these difficulties.

### *Coconuts*

This is mainly a small-holder's crop and largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage is estimated at only 21,000 acres and many of the palms are old and in very poor condition. Some copra is exported but the quality is usually very low. The Department is demonstrating simple methods of production of good quality copra.

### *Maize*

This crop is grown to some extent on the more fertile land but is usually planted in occasional patches among the padi crops.

### *Jobs Tears, Ragi and Sorghum*

These are grown to a small extent but are usually only regarded as substitutes for padi in time of emergency and as



poultry food. A single ear selection of sorghum made from a recent importation of seed by the Department of Agriculture shows considerable promise.

#### *Sweet Potatoes, Tapioca and Yams*

All are grown throughout the country for use as everyday vegetables and substitutes for rice in times of shortage.

#### *Fruit Trees*

Fruit trees are found in the villages but the demand for fruit far exceeds the supply and there is considerable scope for planting further trees such as durian, rambutan and mangosteen.

#### *Fresh Vegetables.*

Production, except by some Chinese market gardens near the towns, is on a small scale. A fair variety of tropical vegetables can be grown through the exceptionally heavy rainfall at times hinders intensive cultivation. The production of some temperate-climate vegetables is possible in parts of the uplands.

#### *Pineapples*

This fruit will grow on most types of soil in Sarawak and fruit of high quality and exceptional flavour can be produced on the drained peat soils.

#### *Coffee*

Coffee is cultivated to a small extent near the villages for local consumption. Recently, increased interest has been taken in planting coffee, particularly in the 2nd and 4th Divisions, and large numbers of seedlings have been distributed by the Department from the main nurseries. Steps are being taken to increase the supplies of seedlings available in outstation nurseries.

#### *Tobacco*

Tobacco for local consumption is planted in small areas near the villages. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

#### *Cocoa*

This crop is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak but some observation plots established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise on the better types of soil, particularly when fertilisers are used. Five hundred seedlings

raised in quarantine in Malaya from clean selected seed obtained from the Gold Coast have been planted in the First Division and are now in full bearing. Seedlings raised from the pods are being distributed throughout the country for planting on suitable sites but so far farmers have not shown much interest.

#### LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY

Livestock husbandry plays at present but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Only in the Fifth Division are there buffalo in any number. These are used for meat production and for cultivating padi fields by trampling. Their number is estimated at about 6,000. Elsewhere the number is negligible. Introduction into other parts has not been uniformly successful and in parts of the Third Division the small buffalo population has declined lately because the animals cannot withstand the severe flooding conditions which make grazing very difficult at certain seasons. Small herds are being built up in some areas and in one of these (in the Mukah area) an outbreak of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia was successfully dealt with in 1953.

There are some herds of cattle but Sarawak relies almost entirely on imported cattle for meat. The Red Sindhi, Kelantan and Balinese cattle imported by the Department of Agriculture have all done well and a valuable addition to the Department's stock in 1953 was a Hereford Bull given by the Australian Government. He has settled down fairly well but he has not yet been worked very hard and it is too early to assess the value of this breed in Sarawak. Pigs are kept by Chinese smallholders and at Dayak long houses and the import of Middle White blood by the Department of Agriculture is being effective in many places. There is room for a great increase in pigs and the success of larger operations depends mainly on the supply of food stuffs. Plans for a feeding stuff sales organisation were put in hand late in 1953.

Ducks and domestic fowls are kept in most villages and do quite well. In and around Kuching there is some poultry keeping on a larger scale and the Department of Agriculture has helped with advice on management and feeding. The demand for Ranikhet vaccine treatment grows and in 1953 interest in caponising



by implantation increased. These services are now routine and a charge is made only for material.

A Veterinary Officer began service in 1953 and it will now be possible to examine the problems of animal disease, to deal with them at the main centres and, with the help of the Malayan Veterinary Department, to expand immunisation services.

#### FISHERIES

Fish is a staple food for many people and both marine and freshwater fisheries are important. The main source of supply is the shallow coastal waters and the estuaries of the larger rivers, worked mainly by Malays, Melanau and Chinese (Henghua) fishermen.

The fishing methods along the coasts may appear crude to the casual observer but anyone acquainted with sea fishing is soon impressed by the simplicity, ingenuity and suitability for local conditions of the contrivances. The fishermen show much skill and good seamanship.

In 1953 the Fisheries Development Section was attached to the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes. There was delay in beginning fishing operations as the motor fishing vessel *Saripah* needed a very extensive overhaul and repairs. Fishing with her began in October when conditions were far from ideal and up to the end of the year nets could not be used and fishing was confined to traps and shark lines. An examination of wire traps by the Master Fisherman gave interesting results. All the traps were made from 1½ mesh galvanised wire netting mounted on heavy gauge galvanised wire frames and the larger ones of (about 52 cubic feet) were the most satisfactory. By far the largest catches from the traps were the two varieties of Merah (*lutianus* sp.) but there were also fair quantities of Kerapau (*epenephelus* sp.) and Belokok (*caranx* sp.) All these are popular and not easily caught by other local fishing methods. Similar, though less successful, results were recorded in earlier experiments and for a time fishermen were interested, but occasional losses of gear discouraged them. We hope they will adopt the trap system used by the Fisheries Section. This can be worked in the *landas* season when other fishing systems are often hard to work.

Conditions for using the Danish seine were not good while *Saripah* was at work and full trials of this and the purse seine were deferred until 1954.

Chinese farmers obtain large and profitable yields from freshwater fish farming mainly with carp and often combined with piggeries. Except for the common carp which breeds but tends to deteriorate in size, farming requires the importation of fry and so is not suited to inaccessible areas or for farmers whose capital is limited. Further work with *tilapia mossambica* has been done and the spreading of this species is now a part of the Department's policy.

#### FORESTRY

Natural forest still covers some 34,000 square miles, about 72%, of the land area of Sarawak. Except for a relatively small and commercially unimportant area of moss forest on the tops of the higher hills, almost the whole of this natural vegetation is lowland tropical rain forest. It consists almost entirely of evergreen trees and is in most parts dominated by one botanical family, the *Dipterocarpaceae*, but it is nevertheless very varied; it is estimated that the number of indigenous tree species, many of which are still unknown, exceeds 2,500, but not more than about one-tenth of them are important as timber-producers. For working timber, much of the forest is still inaccessible but, if the internal communications of the country can be improved, most of it is potentially productive.

The lowland tropical rain forest is divided into a number of distinctive types, dependent mainly on soil. The principal types are:—

##### *Mangrove swamps*

These are tidal swamps in sheltered places in the estuaries of the larger rivers, the most important being the Sarawak, Rejang and Trusan. The total area is about 460 square miles, but only about half area of this is true mangrove of good quality. The rest is either poor forest in the drier parts of the swamps, or else has thickets of the *nipah* palm. Mangrove is not important as a timber producer, but a valuable source of firewood, charcoal and cutch. The *nipah* palm provides sugar and thatch.



### *Peat-swamp forest*

The greater part of the coastal belt is swampy land with deep peat soil, extending inland for more than 50 miles in places and covering about 6,000 square miles. About 5,770 square miles of this is still forest, often very valuable, which, because of its accessibility and the quality of some of its timbers, such as *ramin* (*gonystylus bancanus*), is now the chief source of Sarawak's timber supplies. There are various distinct sub-types of swamp forest. Of these the most important is mixed swamp forest, in which *ramin* is often the most abundant large tree. Another very distinctive sub-type is *alan* forest, in which *shorea albida* often occurs in almost pure stands.

### *"Kerangas" or "Heath forest"*

The vegetation occurs on areas of very poor, acid podsol soils, scattered throughout the country and probably covering several thousand square miles. Much of this is poor and even in the better parts the trees are usually small, but the forests are often of considerable value. In places there are almost pure stands of *ru ronang* (*casuarina sumatrana*) which provides good fuel, and there are also rich stands of the conifers *bindang* (*agathis alba*) and *sempilor* (*dacrydium elatum*), which are not otherwise available except on steep and usually inaccessible hills. Where shifting cultivation is widespread, the only forests are mostly of the *kerangas* type (the soil being too poor for agriculture) and these are invaluable as the only remaining local sources of timber, firewood and other essential forest products for the surrounding population.

### *Riparian Forest*

Rather narrow strips of riverine alluvial soils, rarely half a mile in width, carry a special type of forest which appears to vary in accordance with the nature and the speed of the rivers. In the upper reaches of the fast flowing streams, the riparian forest often consists chiefly of various species of *engkabang* (*shorea spp.*), the source of the valuable oil-bearing illipe nut. Where the streams change to comparatively slow-flowing rivers the forest often changes too, and in many places *belian* (*eusideroxylon zwageri*) is the most important tree. The remaining riparian forest of value is small; much of it has been destroyed because of ribbon cultivation along the rivers and of the esteem in which *belian* timber has always been held.

### Other types

The remaining forest, of about 25,000 square miles, is found on less specialised soils. It is very mixed, with a multitude of species dominated by *dipterocarps* such as *meranti* (*shorea*), *keruing* (*dipterocarpus*) and *kapur* (*dryobalanops*.) It is very dense and the trees reach a fairly large size: the roof of the forest is usually about 150 feet above the ground. Below this canopy formed by the larger species there are several not very sharply defined layers of smaller shade-bearing trees, but low vegetation is generally scanty because very little light reaches the ground. Climbing lianes and canes are common and epiphytes such as orchids are abundant on the higher branches of the trees. Considerable areas of this forest are obviously secondary, the relics of a former cultivation now gone.

### FOREST DEPARTMENT ORGANISATION

At the end of 1953 the Forest Department had 142 officers. The administration is on a territorial basis, with an Assistant Conservator or Assistant Forest Officer, directly responsible to the Conservator, in charge of five Sections. The First and Second Administrative Divisions form one forest section, the Fourth Administrative Division is divided into two (Miri and Bintulu), and the Assistant Conservator for the Fifth Administrative Division is also State Forest Officer, Brunei. One Assistant Conservator gives his whole time to research and the training of field staff.

### Exploration

The principal exploration work now in progress aims first at finding forest rich in *belian*, and secondly at a survey of the various types of swamp forest. Good *belian* forest was found over an extensive area between the Niah and Suai rivers in the Miri Section, and also in small but rich stands in the Kakus drainage of the Bintulu Section. Otherwise results were disappointing. Surveys covering 140 square miles of swamp forest, mostly of poor quality, were completed during the year, and work on about 300 square miles between the Saribas river and the Batang Lupar is nearing completion. A long cross-country expedition was made in the little-known headwaters of the Rejang, where much old secondary forest in a now almost unpopulated territory was found.



### *Constitution of Permanent Forests*

The constitution of the country's permanent forest estate again made satisfactory progress, and the settlement of 1903.7 square miles was completed, with a further 677 square miles in process of settlement. The area of Permanent Forests is now 924.8 square miles, or about 19.7% of the area of Sarawak. Two important stages in the programme were completed during the year: the provision of a broad belt of protective forest round the headwaters of the Batang Baleh, where the menace of denudation by shifting cultivation is greatest, and the protection of all the most valuable peat-swamp forests in the Third Division, which form the country's chief source of export timber.

### *Forest inventories*

The soils of Sarawak are so varied, and often so poor, that proper management of the forests for sustained yield is impossible without good stock maps. The method now generally used for this work is to make a preliminary map for aerial photographs, to check the interpretation, and assess the quality by ground surveys. The area covered by inventories of varying degrees of intensity during the year was 217.3 square miles, bringing all areas covered to 1269.4 square miles. Close co-operation was maintained with the Photo-Forestry Section of the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, where work is being done on preliminary maps of several permanent forests.

### *Working plans*

Management plans covering 65 square miles of mangrove and 475 square miles of other permanent forest were completed during the year. The total area of forest now governed by systematic working plans is 624 square miles.

### *Forest industries*

At the end of the year there were 47 sawmills, in addition to a number of very small portable mills, working in the country. The cut of commercial wood, in terms of round timber, was 289,640 tons (Hoppus) as compared with 229,792 tons in 1952. Of this about 70.5% was exported, and details of exports to various markets are shown in the following table\*. The declared f.o.b. value of all timber exports was \$13,861,976 as compared with \$8,925,910 in 1952.

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\*Apparent errors in this table are due to the elimination of decimals.

Destination			Tons of 50 cubic feet	Tons of 50 Hoppus feet	Total equivalent in round timber Tons of 50 Hoppus	
					1953	1952
United Kingdom	...	...	32,729	43,434	108,893	49,851
Hong Kong	...	...	3,725	42,776	50,225	45,800
Australia	...	...	3,121	13,897	20,139	12,354
Borneo ports	...	...	9,586	93	19,264	16,018
Singapore	...	...	157	1,704	2,017	1,932
South Africa	...	...	313	1,298	1,923	1,315
Japan	...	...	—	897	897	301
Egypt	...	...	118	97	334	—
Germany	...	...	—	136	136	86
Holland	...	...	—	133	133	157
Italy	...	...	—	115	115	—
Belgium	...	...	51	—	102	—
Denmark	...	...	13	—	26	—
U.S.A.	...	...	8	—	16	—
Total			104,580	49,821	204,222	127,814

The increase in markets in 1953 is gratifying, but only the first five on the list can be regarded as established. The effect of the relaxation, late in the year, of controls on softwood imports to the United Kingdom still remains to be seen.

Twenty-nine kinds of timber were exported, but of these only five kinds, namely *ramin* (*gonystylus bancanus*), *meranti* (*shorea spp.*), *sepetir* (*pseudosindora sp.*), *jongkong* (*dactyloctenium stenotachys*) and *kapur* (*dryobalanops spp.*) exceeded 5,000 tons in terms of round timber. Of the timber cut for export, *ramin* made up approximately 62%, and *meranti* 18%.

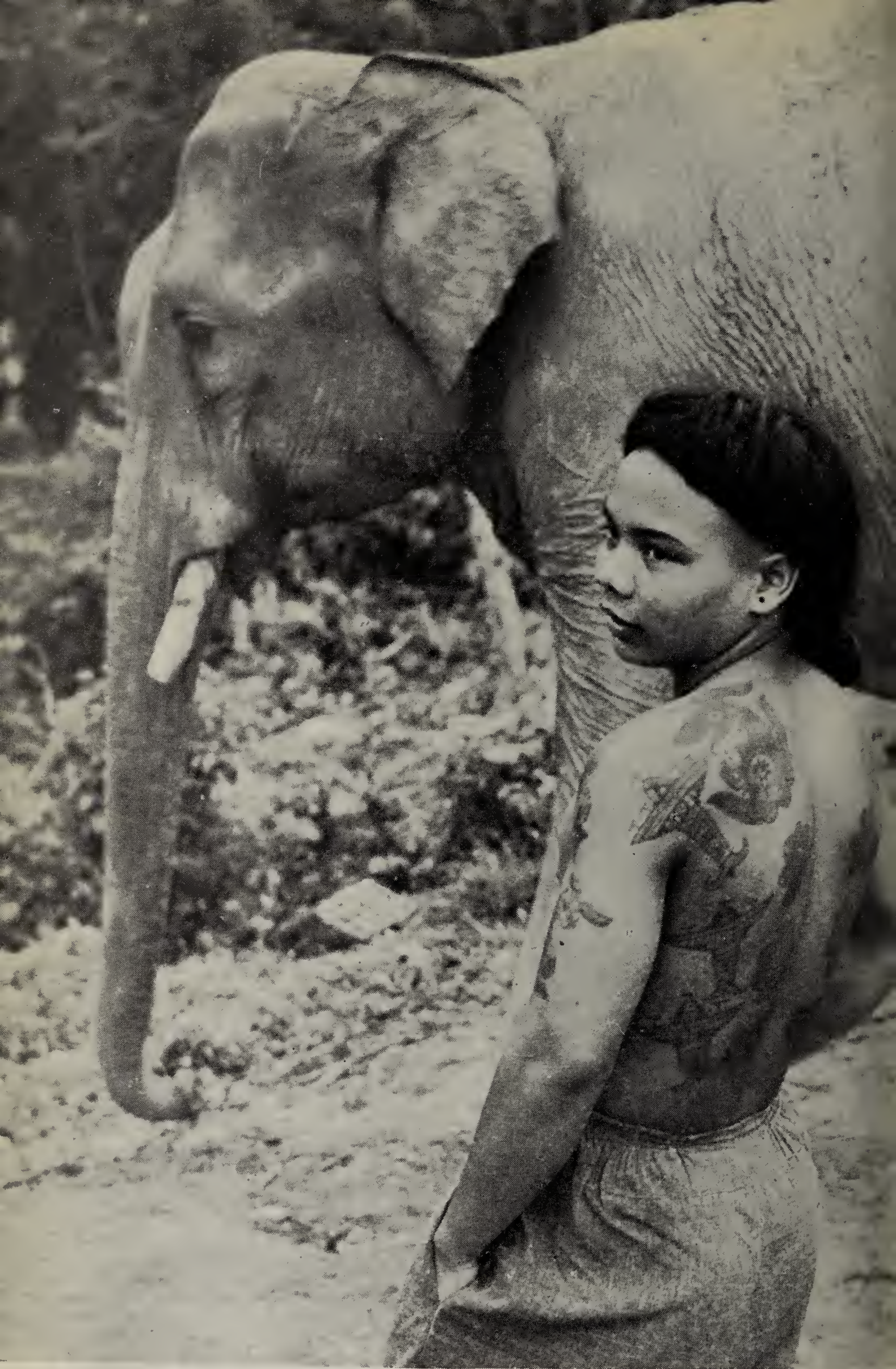
Except when they are collected in permanent forests, the Forest Department has little control over most types of minor produce, the principal forms of which are canes, cutch, damar, *getah jelutong* and other wild rubbers, illipe nuts and *nipah* sugar.



At the Turtle  
Islands: The hat-  
chery at Talang  
Talang, looking to-  
wards Lundu Dis-  
trict on the main-  
land







G. S. I. S.

With his Iban driver and friend: one of the elephants used for hauling timber in the Upper Rejang region of the Third Division



Because of the low price of plantation rubber, many natives turned to the jungle for a livelihood, and production showed a considerable increase. The illipe nut crop at the beginning of the year was however destroyed in most parts of the country by storms, and only in the Kanowit district was a large crop collected. The total f.o.b. value of minor forest products exported, details of which can be found in Chapter V of Part II, was \$5,908,631 as compared with \$3,834,296 in 1952; revenue collected amounted to \$21,022 in Forest Department royalties and permit fees, and \$488,121 in export duties.

### Research

For basic forestry research Sarawak depends mainly on outside institutions, such as the Malayan Forest Research Institute, (to which it contributes a small sum annually), the Imperial Institute, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the Commonwealth Industrial and Scientific Research Organisations of the United Kingdom and of Australia, and others. Close co-operation was maintained with these during the year. Special projects in progress are botanical work and advice on timber problems (Malaya), the preparation of a key to Sarawak woods (Australia), mechanical tests of *sepetir* timber (United Kingdom), and the possibilities of the production of safrole in Sarawak (United Kingdom). One Senior Forest Ranger returned from Malaya, where he had successfully completed a year's course of training, and another is in Australia studying forestry under a Commonwealth Scholarship.

But much work must necessarily be done locally. The most important work of the year was the formation of a number of sample plots for the study of the recovery of swampy forest and lowland *dipterocarp* forest from selective fellings. A small piece of land was also acquired for spot trials of various trees on very poor podsol soils, and several species have now been planted. An experiment in the establishment of timber plantations in conjunction with food crops was started near Kuching. A profuse flowering of forest trees all over the country towards the end of the year gave the opportunity for a great increase in botanical knowledge.

The issue in a limited edition of a series of multigraphed leaflets on the trees and timbers of Sarawak and Brunei was

begun during the year. Thirty of these leaflets have now been issued, and the series should be completed in 1954.

### *Revenue and Expenditure*

The following statement gives comparative figures of direct forest revenue and expenditure for the years 1952-1953.

		1952	1953
Revenue	...	\$ 856,571	\$ 1,153,604
Expenditure	...	<u>314,504</u>	<u>370,844</u>
Surplus	...	<u>\$ 542,063</u>	<u>\$ 782,760</u>

The expenditure figures cited above include expenditure of Colonial Development and Welfare funds, which was \$60,955 in 1953.

### MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING

Mineral resources have long been important in the life of Sarawak, and today still play a prominent part in her economy. Gold and diamonds were first mined, later antimony, mercury, and coal, more recently oil. Other mineral resources are aluminium ore, diamonds, building stone, phosphate, limestone used for lime manufacture and suitable for cement, and clay used for bricks and tiles. Silver, lead, copper, gypsum, ilmenite, zircon, monazite, iron ore, sapphire, and kaolin occur in small quantities, and salt is obtained by native methods in the interior. Minerals have probably been worked in Sarawak and adjoining parts of Borneo for about a thousand years, but, as the able geologist Posewitz wrote in 1892, "From the day when the companions of the unfortunate Magellan cast anchor before Brunei ... the wildest ideas have been in circulation with regard to its mineral wealth".

The relationship of previous mineral products to the country's total exports is shown in the table on the following page.



PAST SARAWAK MINERAL EXPORTS

Year	Value of Sarawak produce exports	Value of mineral exports	Percentage of mineral exports to exports of Sarawak produce	Mineral royalties paid to the Sarawak Government	Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds
1888	1,322,325	118,915	9	8,889	Antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	Coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	Gold, coal, antimony quicksilver
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	Gold, oil, coal
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	Oil
1938	23,244,666	12,482,134	54	387,636	Oil, gold, silver
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	94,448	Oil*, gold, antimony

All values given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s. 4d. Sterling since 1906

N.A.=not available

\*Most of the oil exported from Sarawak during 1948 was produced in Brunei

## MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1953

The output of minerals and mineral products in 1953 consisted of oil, gold, phosphate, bricks and tiles, lime, and stone. Their estimated value was \$3,869,681 and \$282,945 was paid as direct revenue in the form of royalties and mining rents to the Sarawak Government. Mineral exports of oil and gold were valued at \$299,612,760. Most of the oil however came from Brunei, was piped to Sarawak, and some of it treated at the Lutong Refinery. About \$5,000,000 should be collected in income tax. Exports comprised crude oil, gasoline, kerosene, gas, oil, fuel oil, diesel fuel, and diesel fuel bunkers. The oil industry is a part of the Shell Group. The other mineral industries are mainly small Chinese concerns. Five gold mines are in operation in Upper Sarawak, and building materials are produced at Kuching, Sibuluan, and Miri.

Mining leases in 1953 were 25 covering 3,939 acres. This is the only land in the country reserved for mining, excluding oil rights, which are held over the whole country by Sarawak Oilfields Limited. A little gold prospecting was done in the Bau District by three Chinese companies and by the Borneo Companies Limited, who stopped towards the end of the year. The 1953 mineral production is given in the table on page 73.

## MINERALS WORKED

*Oil*

Sarawak has produced oil for 40 years. In 1953 the Miri field produced 351,484 barrels, valued at \$2,542,673. The yield is decreasing annually. The oil was obtained from 160 pumping wells ranging in depth from 300 to 3,050 feet: it comes from sands of the Upper and Middle Miocene series.

Oil production in Sarawak followed geological investigations begun in 1909 on behalf of the Royal Dutch-Shell Group. Oil was struck at Miri in 1910 and a company with a capital of £500,000 was formed. The first shipment was made in April, 1913, and production has since been continuous. The total output to December 31st, 1953 is 72,745,328 U.S. barrels including the estimated production during the Japanese occupation. Over \$10,000,000 in direct royalties have been paid to the Government of Sarawak.

The search for new oilfields in Sarawak continued energetically throughout 1953 and many millions of dollars were spent on



work in different parts of the country. The Shell Group are making geological surveys, geophysical investigations, and deep drilling tests in a number of places. For this work about 50 European specialists and an equal number of regional staff are employed, with a locally recruited labour force of about 1,000. In addition interpretative studies are carried out at headquarters where there are well equipped geological laboratories with palaeontologists, geophysicists, and photo-geologists. Field expeditions worked in many places obtaining the geological and geophysical information which must precede the drilling of exploratory wildcat holes.

Oil from British Borneo is exported via Lutong in Sarawak, and 4,807,279 long tons valued at Straits \$299,568,232 were shipped. Most of this was crude oil, but in addition gasoline, diesel oil kerosene, gas oil, and fuel oil were exported. The Lutong refinery output in United States barrels during 1953 was gasoline 4,415,400; kerosene 2,400; gas oil 93,800; diesel fuel 8,208,500; and fuel oil 4,066,100.

### *Gold*

This mineral has probably been mined in Upper Sarawak for several centuries and is known to be widely distributed in small quantities elsewhere in the country. Sarawak gold production from 1864 to 1953 inclusive is recorded as 1,212,727 fine ounces, which has produced direct revenue of over \$2,500,000 in royalties, rents, and licence fees. The Bau gold field has been the source of practically all the gold produced.

Gold exported in 1953 was 442 fine ounces valued at \$44,528; the royalty paid was \$2,262 and rents yielded \$6,214: the output in 1952 was 898 fine ounces.

### *Coal*

The best known coal deposits are at Sadong, the Silantek-Abok area, and in the Bintulu and Mukah districts. Twenty-six coal occurrences are known. They are mostly of lignite but there is some higher quality coal. Many are small, contain thin or steeply dipping seams, are isolated by communication difficulties, or made unattractive for other reasons.

A geological survey was completed during 1953 of the Silantek area of West Sarawak where there is low-volatile bituminous coal occurs. The purpose of this was to find out whether there was enough good quality coal in these deposits to repay

mining. Work shows that about 3,500,000 tons might be mined and perhaps more. A programme for estimating the tonnage has been prepared. In view of growing industrialization in the Far East, and the possible development of iron ore deposits in neighbouring countries, there might in the future be a regional market for coals with coking qualities. In 1953 Japanese firms enquired about mining this deposit.

### *Phosphate*

Phosphate in the form of guano occurs in many limestone caves. It is an important resource, being a valuable fertilizer in a region where agriculture is a main occupation and much of the soil poor. The largest deposits, at Niah caves, are worked under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

Phosphate production during 1953 was 632 long tons, valued at \$90,554. Royalties of \$11,730 were paid to the Government. Since 1946 the guano production has been 4,020 long tons, from the Niah deposits. Guano is common in other limestone caves but the deposits are smaller than those at Niah. This production figure does not include small quantities of phosphate extracted by the Niah cave owners for their own use, for local requirements, from other caves. Deposits containing about 2,000 tons of guano have been examined at Gunong Staat south of Kuching, and small amounts have been found in caves at Gunong Selabor, south of Serian. The Niah caves are estimated to contain about 29,000 tons of phosphate; they consist of approximately 2 miles of explored passages and cover an area of approximately 24 acres; small streams and water seepages from the roof are common. Guano more than six inches in thickness covers about 150,000 square feet in the caves; the average depth of the main occurrences is 11 feet; the greatest depth of phosphate found was 29 feet.

### *Antimony*

The main deposits of antimony ore are in Upper Sarawak and consist mostly of the sulphide, stibnite. The mineral was discovered in 1823 and since then approximately 83,000 tons have been produced. There was no recorded mining in 1953.

### *Mercury*

Mercury occurs mainly as the sulphide, cinnabar, but small amounts of the metal itself have been found. The recorded out-



put is 21,598 flasks each of 76 lbs, possibly produced between 1870 and 1900. No ore was worked in 1953.

### *Aluminium Ore*

This was first discovered in 1949 in West Sarawak, and prospected up to 1952 by the British Aluminium Company Limited. In the Sematan area about 5,500,000 tons of ore are possibly worth working, in three deposits, at Munggu Belian, Bukit Gedong and Tanjong Serabang.

### *Building Materials and Roadstone*

These comprise bricks, tiles, lime, stone, and gravel. The value of the 1953 output is estimated at about \$1,192,000. The industry is mainly run by the Chinese on a small scale for local requirements in Kuching, Sibü and Miri. If the demand becomes larger, the output can be increased. Kuching, in the most developed part of the country, had the largest and most varied production of constructional materials. 2,156,880 bricks, valued at \$281,576, 240,000 tiles valued at \$31,000, and 2,137 long tons of lime, valued at \$233,350, were produced. The clay and sand for brick and tile manufacture came from the valley of the Sarawak River, and the limestone for making lime from Gunong Staat. Building materials were also produced at Sibü and Miri. The Sibü district produced 572,000 clay bricks valued at \$85,800. In 1952 the production of clay bricks was 300,000. Gravel worked in the Third Division was about 14,000 cubic yards valued at \$164,000. At Miri 508,500 bricks were produced and 938 tons of local clay and 73 tons of sand were used. The estimated average values during 1953 were: for clay bricks \$120 per thousand in Kuching, and \$150 in Sibü; for tiles \$130 per thousand, and for lime \$6½ per pikul (16.8 pikuls equal 1 long ton).

Stone production in 1953 was 97,300 cubic yards valued at \$481,800. Most of the stone was used for road construction and road repairs. For many years an obstacle to development in Sarawak, particularly of roads, has been the lack of stone. Outside the Kuching—Bau area, good quality stone was unknown. The shortage was particularly acute in the Rejang estuary, where the rapidly growing towns of Sibü, Sarikei, and Binatang needed rock for building and road development, and this was imported from as far away as Hong Kong. In 1951 the Geological Department was asked to help in finding supplies. From

systematic geological mapping promising localities for testing were indicated, and as a result the Sebuyau and Aup quarries have been opened. Sebuyau quarry, on a sheltered part of the coast, has water transport, and can supply the surrounding region including the Rejang estuary. It is estimated that there are 13,000,000 cubic yards of first-grade readily workable granite in the part of Sebuyau hill where the Public Works Department are developing their quarry. The second quarry at Aup is near Sibu, and although tropical weathering has resulted in a cover of overburden which must be stripped, some of this material can be used locally for fill, and the quarry provides a useful stone supply for the town.





Hedda Morrison

A Kenyah Longhouse at Long Sla'an, in the Upper Baram, Fourth Division







## SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1953

MINERAL	PRODUCTION	REMARKS
Oil	351,484 United States barrels	Valued at \$2,542,673; royalty estimated at 262,775. Oil exports from Sarawak totalled 4,807,279 long tons valued at \$299,568,232 and included gasoline, diesel, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, and crude oil. Most of this oil was produced in Brunei but piped to Sarawak and some of it treated at Lutong Refinery before being exported
Gold	442 fine ounces	Valued at \$44,528; a royalty of \$2,226 was collected, and mining rents yielded \$6,214. The output came from four mines in the Bau District
Phosphate	632 long tons	Valued at \$90,554; royalty paid was \$11,730. Extracted from Niah Caves, Bukit Subis, Fourth Division
Brick & Tiles	2,156,880 bricks 240,000 tiles	Estimated value of bricks is \$281,576 and of tiles \$31,200. The output of concerns at Kuching was 1,076,380 bricks; around Sibuan companies produced 572,000 clay bricks, and at Miri companies made 508,500 bricks
Lime	2,137 long tons	Estimated value \$233,350. Made in Kuching area by Chop Mong Soon, Ban Hin Company, and Swee Huat Seng
Stone	97,300 cubic yards	Estimated value approximately \$481,800. This stone was produced mostly in the First Division coming from Serian road quarries, the 7th Mile quarry, and Stapok quarry. In the Second Division Sebuyau quarry yielded about 6,000 cubic yards, and in the Third Division the production from Aup quarry was about 4,000 cubic yards
Gravel	14,000 cubic yards (estimated)	Estimated value \$164,000. This gravel was worked in the Third Division from the Rejang valley

Values are in Malayan dollars, \$1 being worth Sterling 2s. 4d.





## VIII

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### CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

**T**WENTY Societies were registered during 1953 and six were removed from the Register, leaving 123 at the end of the year with two of these under notice of cancellation. This does not appear impressive, yet the progress made in 1953 was substantial; it was a period of consolidation, much more free from experiments, and marked by far-reaching decisions.

The Colonial Office Adviser on Co-operation, Mr. B. J. Surridge, C.M.G., O.B.E., visited Sarawak from 27th to 31st March. Staff was completely reviewed and proposals (subsequently approved) were submitted to the Government. These included proposals for two more Senior and thirteen more Junior service officers.

The Inspector returned from Loughborough in August, was promoted to be a Senior Inspector, and in October was transferred to Sibu to open a Third Division Office. He was given the powers of an Assistant Registrar.

Towards the end of the year suitable field recruits began to come forward and before the end all these posts in the establishment were filled for the first time in the Department's history. These recruits must undergo two years of training.

Great progress was made with written propaganda. The monthly magazine has greatly improved; circulation is now 1,000 a month, and the quality of the subject matter is improving. A booklet entitled *Rebirth of the Kaka* was produced in Sea Dayak. For some time there had been a demand for literature in Chinese on Co-operation. A quarterly Chinese magazine appeared in December, based on the monthly magazine. The proceedings of the first and second general meetings of the Co-operative Bank were also printed, in four languages. The Chinese newspapers in Kuching and Sibu began to take an editorial interest in Co-operation.

Preparations to form a Co-operative Central Bank came to fruition in October when the first and second general meetings were held with the representatives of 83 Societies gathered in Kuching. The Bank was registered on October 5th. By the end of the year membership had risen to 90 Societies and funds were still being transferred to the Bank.

From 17th April to 17th July Mr. Peter Goullart of the International Labour Office visited Sarawak to report on ways of introducing Co-operation to the Chinese of Sarawak. Mr. Goullart, who has had long experience of Chinese Co-operatives in Tibet, and is very fluent in several Chinese languages, was of great assistance in visiting people in their villages and explaining the true objects of Co-operation. His report had not been received at the end of the year.

The first staff refresher course was held in Kuching in June and in August the Assistant Registrar organised and held more meetings of members of Melanau Societies and courses for office-bearers in the Oya and Mukah Rivers.

After several months of patient work in the Bau and Lundu Districts of the First Division (hitherto untouched) a Supervisor formed his first Land Dayak Society in December.

A request for a Co-operative Padi Milling Society came from the Fourth Division and an officer was diverted to this work. Machinery was ordered by the Department but it was damaged in transhipment and the Society remained unregistered (but ready) at the end of the year. However, some nearby Sea Dayaks who already had a plant run in a co-operative fashion, sought and obtained registration after the usual preparation. A start has thus been made in the Fourth Division.

The demand for Padi Milling Societies fell—a further 4 being registered to make 21—a sign of economic recession also evidenced by the large increase in Padi Savings Societies from 9 to 18.

One surprising development was the formation of a Vegetable Marketing Society at Sibu, born of a desire for land. 49 Chinese vegetable gardeners marketing their produce in Sibu Bazaar asked the Department to form a Farming Society; they knew little about Co-operation but they thought this might be a good move to



obtain land, of which they are short. They were told that they should co-operate first to market their produce and later to search for land. The Society is running well, though the members are turbulent, and their faith in Co-operation should soon be strong enough to enable them to proceed to the long-term object.

The year 1953 was therefore an eventful one. Registrations were curtailed and most of the bad Societies have now been eliminated, but much greater progress was made in administration and expansion, although it is doubtful if the full effects of these will be felt for another year. The objects of the Five-Year Plan have probably been achieved except for trained staff and expansion into the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, and in some respects (for example propaganda), they have been exceeded. Very few Societies are good—there is no doubt about that—but in the majority there is a steady improvement. Co-operation and the Department are firmly established and during the next five years the resources of the Department and the Bank should probably be directed mainly towards an attack on agricultural indebtedness, the formation of a large member of Rural Credit Societies, and the provision of short-term agricultural credit.





# IX

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## SOCIAL SERVICES

### EDUCATION

**T**HE senior staff approved for the Education Department at the beginning of 1953 consisted of a Director, a Deputy Director, 15 Education Officers, including 4 temporary appointments, and 3 Women Education Officers, including 2 temporary appointments. During the year the vacancy for an Education Officer as Principal of the Batu Lintang Training Centre was filled by the transfer of an officer from Mauritius. The vacancy on the establishment for a Woman Education Officer was filled by an appointment from the United Kingdom. One Temporary Education Officer and one Temporary Woman Education Officer returned to the United Kingdom at the end of their terms of secondment. The Woman Education Officer (temporary) on the staff of the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit, was transferred during the year to the Medical Department. At the end of the year there were five unfilled vacancies for Education Officers (including two temporary posts) and two unfilled vacancies for Women Education Officers (temporary).

An Inspector of Schools and a woman Group Supervisor acted as Education Officers in existing vacancies during the greater part of the year.

In spite of these vacancies it was possible to post one of the existing Education Officers to the Fourth and Fifth Divisions and Divisional Education Officers were thus established for all the Divisions, each with an Education Officer and the nucleus of a supervisory staff. Four of the five senior certificated teachers who had been acting as Group Supervisors Grade IIIA, were promoted to substantive rank at the beginning of the year. The establishment of Divisional Offices has led to better supervision of schools, closer liaison with Local Authorities and Managements of Mission and Chinese Schools, and more guidance and help to teachers.

Supervisory staff is however still insufficient to make visits as frequently as is desirable to rural schools in remote areas.

The posting of senior staff to Divisions and the Training Centre left the Head Office understaffed, and various desirable developments had to be held in abeyance until the arrival of more staff.

The standard of staffing in most types of school showed improvement. The number of trained teachers in primary schools for the indigenous peoples was increased by teachers trained at the Batu Lintang Teacher Training Centre. In Secondary Schools a disappointingly small number of new teachers was recruited from local students with a Cambridge School Certificate, and very few such students entered the Grade IIA teacher-training course with a view to taking up teaching as a career in English Secondary Schools. But the Missions recruited from abroad a small number of graduate teachers including some with science degrees. In the Chinese system, recruitment of staff for primary schools was reasonably satisfactory, except in a few rural areas. In Chinese Secondary Schools, which formerly relied to some extent on recruitment from China, the position was partly relieved by the engagement of graduates from Hong Kong.

At the end of the year 41 students, including 7 from Brunei, successfully completed their training at Batu Lintang Teacher Training Centre. This number included the first 7 Grade IIA teachers for service in Mission or Chinese Schools. At the beginning of 1953 new students in larger numbers were admitted to this course, which lays special emphasis on the teaching of English. It was not yet possible to provide professional training for teachers of general subjects in Chinese Schools, but four teachers from Chinese Schools were sent to England for courses of training, and vacation courses in the Third Division at which the responsibility of Local Authorities in the sphere of education was among the topics covered, were attended by about 70 Chinese teachers. Refresher courses for teachers were held in two Dayak areas in the Second Division and were very successful. A refresher course for Group Supervisors Grade IIIA was held at the Training Centre at the beginning of the year.

There was a further increase in the number of children attending school in 1953. The following figures show how the



Coronation Day:  
school children at  
the inter-denomina-  
tional service in the  
grounds of the  
Sarawak Museum  
in Kuching





A wood-work class  
at the Dayak  
School, Engkilili, in  
the Second Division





total enrolment has risen during recent years:—

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
29,616	33,464	35,628	39,656	42,284	45,451	49,072

This growth in school population represents an increase of about 66 per cent in six years. During the same period the population is estimated to have increased by about 8 per cent.

In 1953, as in previous years, the increase in enrolment was very largely due to the number of Chinese children in school. This continued to rise steeply, both in the Chinese and Mission Schools. There was also a satisfactory increase in the numbers of Malay children in nearly all types of school. It is however disappointing to record that the number of pupils from other indigenous races showed only a very small increase over 1952.

These children of the Dayaks and other indigenous peoples are mainly in rural primary schools where problems of poor attendance, retardation and wastage continue to be serious. Main obstacles to the spread of education in these areas are the sparse distribution of the rural population, the difficulty of communications, and, above all, the farming arrangements under which families are absent from their village for a large part of each year, in groups scattered over a fairly wide area. The sparse distribution of population in rural Sarawak means that most schools have small enrolments justifying only one teacher, who may therefore have to take several classes. In some areas arrangements are now being made whereby schools admit new pupils in alternate years only, thus halving the number of classes for the teacher. Elsewhere, the closing of unsatisfactory schools made possible an increase in staff at well attended schools. The farming arrangements mentioned above provide a serious problem. It may be necessary to consider organised arrangements for boarding pupils even at the Lower Primary stage. Pupils in many rural schools who live too far away for a daily journey already board at the school, make their own feeding arrangements, and return home at week-ends.

In spite of these difficulties, the rural schools for the indigenous peoples are producing each year an increasing number of promising pupils of the right age who have completed the 4-year Lower Primary course. At the end of 1949 there were only 10 boys below the age of 15 from all the indigenous races who

were able to pass the entrance examination, of Primary Four standard, into the academic classes at Batu Lintang School; seven of these ten were Malays and there were no entrants from the Dayak schools opened after the liberation. At the end of 1953, more than fifty candidates did well in the entrance examination. Thirty of these, including Malays, Sea Dayaks, Land Dayaks, Melanaus, Kenyahs and Muruts, were admitted to the Higher Primary classes at Batu Lintang. Local scholarships were awarded to another 24 indigenous pupils from rural schools, including 9 girls, to enable them to continue their education in Higher Primary classes at schools in their home areas. (Under the Local Scholarship scheme awards were also made to promising pupils in secondary forms who required financial assistance). The large number of applications at the end of 1953 from boys in rural schools wishing to enter the Preparatory Trade School at Seria was another indication of the improved standards being reached in these schools.

Secondary education is at present mainly provided by the Christian Missions, in "English" schools, and by committees of management of Chinese Schools. In both these there was some expansion during 1953. In the English School system the enrolment in the secondary section was 1,679 compared with 1,431 in 1952. There were 424 entries from these schools for the Cambridge examinations at the end of 1953, compared with 248 in 1952 and 141 in 1951. For the first time some candidates entered for enough subjects in the Higher School Certificate to enable them to qualify for the full Certificate. Increased attention is now being paid to the teaching of General Science in the Boys' Schools and to Domestic Science in the Girls' Schools. Over \$100,000 has been spent in grant-in-aid on a 50% basis, under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, towards the cost of new Science Laboratories at three secondary schools. The Cambridge Syndicate has approved entries in science subjects at these schools for both the School Certificate and Higher Certificate levels. One Girls' Secondary School has completed a Domestic Science Centre, with financial assistance under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, and three others are planning to build such centres in 1954. Several of the urban secondary schools undertook new building operations during the year. One Mission School in Kuching had embarked on a new buildings project estimated to cost \$300,000. A Mission School in Sibul continued an extensive



building programme by completing a new block of offices, classrooms, a science laboratory and an assembly hall. A large new school building under Mission management was in course of erection at Miri. The Government Junior Secondary Schools, at Kuching catering mainly for the Malay population of the capital, and at Batu Lintang catering for boys of all the indigenous races from outstation areas, made satisfactory progress during the year.

The demand for secondary education in the Chinese school system continued to be strong, in spite of the high fees charged. New Junior Middle departments were opened at Sibu and Miri and buildings were completed for a new Senior Middle department at Sarikei. The Joint Examination system is improving the general standard in Junior Middle Schools in the Third Division. The standard of English shown by candidates from Chinese Middle Schools for the higher grade of teacher training at Batu Lintang showed a noticeable improvement over 1952. There is still however need for a big improvement in these schools in the standard of English, without which their graduates are not qualified to enter the University of Malaya.

In all types of school the number of girls increased compared with the previous year, but the enrolment of girls continued to be only about one half the enrolment of boys. The number of girls from the indigenous races attending school is still small. This is due partly to traditional attitudes towards women and girls and partly to the difficulties of communications in rural areas. An increased number of girls from these races qualified at the end of the year for local scholarships to enable them to enter Higher Primary or Secondary classes. The number of girls of all races who continue their education into the secondary forms is still far too low, but the improvement reported in 1952 continued in 1953 when the percentage of girls in secondary forms rose from 27 to 29 per cent of the enrolment in these forms. There was an increase in women teachers employed in schools, especially in Mission schools. The curriculum in many schools was widened to include needlework and cooking and other subjects of particular value for girls.

The revised Development Plan includes large sums for the development of Trade, Technical and Commercial Education. Before this project can be undertaken, much essential information

must be collected. It is for example not yet known whether in the conditions under which small industries now operate in Sarawak, students graduating from a Trade School would be assured of suitable employment with reasonable wages. The availability of qualified instructors also remains in doubt. For these reasons it was decided to seek the advice during 1954 of an outside expert to conduct an occupational survey, and make recommendations for Trade and Technical education.

The British Malayan Petroleum Company offers Sarawak boys the opportunity of training at their Preparatory Trade School at Seria. In 1953 37 Sarawak boys were training at this school, of whom 8 had joined during the year. At the end of the year there were applications to join this school from over 200 Sarawak boys.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department was preparing plans to set up its own training school near Kuching. Under the Government Scholarship Scheme arrangements were made to send some students for technical training overseas.

In the system of schools under Local Authorities the standard of administration continued to improve. This was due partly to increased experience in the Authorities and partly to the establishment of Divisional Education Offices which provided closer and more constant liaison with the Department. Financial problems, particularly in the more advanced of the uniracial authorities, began to be acute. In the latter half of the year when Estimates were being prepared, it became clear that some Authorities would be unable to finance desirable developments from current revenue in 1954. The situation was eased by the decision to allow these Authorities to commit reserves built up in the early years of their existence and it was also decided to make no change in the basis of the grant to Local Authorities during 1954 but to consider a programme of merging existing uniracial Authorities into Mixed Authorities whose financial resources, from grants and other sources of revenue, are appreciably stronger.

Preparations were made for the assumption by the Kuching Municipal Council of full responsibility for primary education within the municipality from the beginning of 1954. The number of pupils in primary schools in Kuching is about one-sixth of the



school enrolment in the whole country. A Standing Committee for Primary Education was formed, composed of Councillors and representatives of various school bodies. The first meeting of the Standing Committee, held in November, was addressed by the Assistant Education Adviser to the Secretary of State, Miss Gwilliam, whose visit is referred to in more detail later on.

The influence of Communist ideas on the Chinese youth of the country continued to be a source of anxiety. Subversive literature entered the country through various channels and numbers of young Chinese left Sarawak for China. In the schools, constant vigilance prevented any overt breaches of discipline. There was an improvement in discipline and tone in schools where good teachers, backed up by co-operative Boards of Managements, showed a determination to keep political influences out of school. The need for parents to develop a stronger sense of personal responsibility for the character and conduct of their children required constant emphasis. The provision of better opportunities for recreation, both physical and cultural, for pupils in school and for young adults in the post-school years, is also an important need, in small outstations as well as in the main towns.

The curriculum and text-books now in use in Chinese Schools place undue emphasis on the country of origin of their pupils with insufficient attention to the land where their parents have settled and where the great majority of pupils have been born. Most Chinese Boards of Management and teachers would welcome a greater emphasis on Sarawak in the subject matter of their schools. It is likely that there will be general acceptance of a new set of text-books for Lower Primary Chinese-language schools, with a distinctively regional background, recently produced in Singapore on principles laid down by the General Chinese Text-book Committee of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore. A Chinese version of a school text-book on the "Civics" of Sarawak, which is awaiting publication in English, began to be serialised in a Chinese newspaper in Kuching.

Twenty Scholarships for further education and training overseas were awarded during the year under schemes promoted by the Governments of Sarawak, Australia and New Zealand, and by other agencies. This higher stage of the educational programme is progressing most satisfactorily. At the end of the year more

than 30 Sarawak students were studying overseas under various scholarship schemes. A revised programme of overseas scholarships, for which generous financial provision has been made, was drawn up and published during the year. A new scheme of allowances was approved for the dependants of scholarship-holders. As science has only recently been introduced into the curriculum of secondary schools in Sarawak, there has been a dearth of candidates for those overseas courses for which candidates must have science qualifications.

Schools throughout the country took a very active part in the celebration of Her Majesty's Coronation. Pamphlets in four languages were distributed by the Education Department and the significance of the Coronation was explained by teachers in all types of school. Every pupil received a Coronation medallion and the music and words (in English, Malay, Dayak and Chinese) of the National Anthem. In Kuching His Excellency the Governor took the salute at a march-past of over 5,000 children. Everywhere school managements, teachers and pupils of all races and religions, working together for a common purpose in a spirit of goodwill, made June 2nd, 1953, a day which will long be remembered.

Miss F. H. Gwilliam, O.B.E., Assistant Education Adviser to the Secretary of State, came to Sarawak in November during a tour of Far Eastern territories. She visited a number of schools in urban and rural areas, especially those for girls, and saw something of the activities of women and girls in voluntary and informal education. Miss Gwilliam was able to see the changes since her visit to Sarawak in 1950, and offered valuable advice on future developments.

### *Finance*

The diversity of agencies responsible for schools in this country and the establishment in recent years of Local Authorities and Municipalities have produced a growing complexity in the financing of education. In particular, the regulations of governing grants-in-aid to private schools, mission schools and Chinese schools, and the financial responsibilities of Local Authorities and Municipalities in the sphere of education, are matters which for some time past have required expert review.



The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services:

	1947	1952	1953 (estimate)
	\$	\$	\$
Central Government funds	235,163	742,951	1,469,130
Local Authority funds ...	nil	228,594	289,043
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	nil	175,603	289,356
Total ...	<u>\$235,163</u> <u>£27,435</u>	<u>\$1,147,148</u> <u>£133,834</u>	<u>\$2,047,529</u> <u>£238,878</u>

It was estimated that during 1953 the Missions spent about \$1,000,000 (£116,667) and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$2,280,000 (£266,000) on educational services. This money was mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions and it does not include grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority funds. The figures do not take into account the contributions made by school committees, in money or in materials, for the construction and maintenance of school buildings and furniture in rural areas.

### *District Schools*

Government Primary Schools were renamed District Schools in 1953. These schools are managed by the Education Department, and the teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. At most of these schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. Pupils are required to provide their own stationery.

For reasons given in the Annual Report for 1952 it was decided to introduce fees in these schools in 1953. These reasons were carefully explained to parents by Supervisors and Headmasters and when fees began to be charged in August the innovation was generally accepted without any serious effect on the number of children enrolled at District Schools. A system of remissions was approved for needy cases, the arrangements being left largely in the hands of the School Committees which function, with advisory powers, at these schools.

Several District Schools were rebuilt or repaired during the year by the local communities entirely from their own resources. Specially noteworthy were two fine new school buildings erected at Bintulu and Miri, in the Fourth Division, by voluntary co-operative efforts.

At the end of the 1953 there were 41 District Schools, staffed by 99 teachers, with 3,527 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 41 schools with 103 teachers and 3,424 pupils. The increase of about 100 children was due almost entirely to the growth of the Higher Primary and Secondary classes at Batu Lintang and at the Maderasah Melayau in Kuching, which are referred to below. In District Primary Schools throughout the country there was very little change in enrolment, the numbers at the end of the year being some sixteen higher than in the previous year. These figures however conceal some small but welcome progress. For since fees were introduced in August the attendance in many schools showed an appreciable improvement, so that even in schools where the introduction of fees reduced the enrolment, the actual number of children in school and attending regularly was larger than previously.

District Schools provide a primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction. There is a strong demand for English, which is now included in the curriculum, beginning in Primary One (the first year of school), at all District Schools where English-speaking teachers can be provided. English is taught to all students at the Teacher Training Centre. By the end of 1953, 34 trained teachers from the Centre had been posted to District Schools and most of these were able to introduce the teaching of English as a subject.

Opportunities to continue their education in Higher Primary and Junior Secondary classes are available to promising pupils from District and other schools at two Government Schools, the Maderasah Melayu and the Batu Lintang School which is at present attached to the Teacher Training Centre.

The Maderasah was formerly a vernacular primary school but is now developing into a junior secondary school for Malay pupils from the Kuching area. Admission to the school is by competitive examination from District and Private Schools in



the neighbourhood. The number of pupils who complete Form III at the Maderasah is increasing yearly. Transfers are made from this group to the Senior Secondary sections of Mission English Schools, assistance being given where necessary under a scholarship scheme. The Maderasah also serves as a Domestic Science Centre for pupils in Kuching Primary Schools.

The Government school at Batu Lintang provides Higher Primary and Junior Secondary education for boys of the indigenous peoples chosen from those who have completed the Lower Primary course in outstation schools. In 1953 there were 80 of these boys in classes ranging from Primary Five to Form Two. In addition, 12 boys of Form Three standard and above, for whom it was impracticable to provide classes at Batu Lintang, attended senior classes in secondary schools in Kuching. One important purpose of the Batu Lintang School has been to provide recruits for the Teacher Training Centre with an improved standard of education. Towards the end of the year five pupils from the school elected to train as teachers in the coming year. Of the 92 pupils at the Batu Lintang School ten came from the State of Brunei.

#### *Local Authority Schools*

Local Authorities and Municipalities are responsible for primary education in their areas. At the end of 1953 there were 99 schools under the management of Local Authorities and Municipalities, with 126 teachers and 3,608 pupils. In 1952 there were 94 schools with 113 teachers and 3,429 pupils. In addition, there were a number of Mission and Chinese schools in Local Authority areas which received grants-in-aid from the Authorities.

The problems of wastage and poor attendance in rural primary schools, referred to earlier, were acute in some Local Authority areas. Nonetheless progress was made. The general standard of efficiency in the schools improved during the year. The discussions at Local Authority meetings showed an increased understanding of the problems of administering schools. A system of requiring pledges from parents to ensure that children satisfactorily complete the four-year course was considered by many Local Authorities and adopted by some. Increased sums were voted for the equipment of schools. The establishment of Divisional Education Offices was partly responsible for this improve-

ment by providing better supervision for the schools and by making it possible for an Education Officer to attend most meetings of the Authorities where advice on school matters was needed.

Local Authorities receive grants from the central government. Many of them raise additional revenue for education by charging education rates or school fees. In 1953 Local Authorities estimated to raise by these means about \$37,000. Complex problems on the financing of these schools arose during the year in areas where uniracial Authorities were considering amalgamation in a Mixed Authority which would include the Chinese.

#### *Private Schools or Village Committee Schools*

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged to open schools under the management of committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools" or "Private Schools" are eligible for financial assistance from Government. There were 49 schools of this type at the end of 1953 with 65 teachers and 2,407 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 36 schools with 49 teachers and 1,758 pupils. Most of the new Private Schools were opened by Malay, Land Dayak and Sea Dayak communities in parts of the First Division. These schools were built and organised entirely by the efforts and initiative of the village people. Most of them have made promising beginnings.

As a result of the initiative of the bazaar community, an Aided Private School for all races was opened at Lubok Antu, in the Second Division, in September. The language of instruction at this school is Sea Dayak, and all pupils follow the same course which includes lessons in English and Mandarin.

Grants from Central Government funds amounting to about \$14,640 (£1,708), as compared with \$11,813 (£1,378) for 1952, were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from Mission representatives in the area.

#### *Mission Schools*

Good progress was made in Mission schools in 1953 both in rural areas and in the towns. At the end of the year there were 85 schools under the management of Christian missions. There



were 320 teachers in these schools and 9,446 pupils. At the end of 1952 there were 71 mission schools with 218 teachers and 8,293 pupils. Most of the new schools were opened in rural areas and provided for the indigenous peoples. There were increased enrolments in the large urban schools and an expansion in the secondary sections of these schools. There was a general improvement in the staff position. At Mission schools in the towns, English is the medium of instruction. 17 of these schools have secondary departments in which 1,679 pupils were enrolled. A large proportion of those entering to the Government Service come from these schools.

In 1953, 295 candidates from Mission schools entered for the Cambridge Junior School Certificate examination. In 1952 there were 170 candidates of whom 110 were successful compared with entrants, of whom 76 were successful in 1952. The Cambridge Junior School Certificate will not be held in 1954. There is however still considered to be a need for a joint examination at the end of the junior secondary stage. Preparations were therefore made for the replacement of the Cambridge examination in 1954 by a Sarawak Junior Secondary examination. This examination will at first be organised on the same lines as the Cambridge Junior. General Knowledge, Cookery and Needlework will be included as subjects.

In the past, the Junior Cambridge examination has generally been taken at the end of the tenth year in school, now known as Form Four, and the Cambridge School Certificate has been taken in the following year, in Form Five. Improvements in the organisation of these schools made it possible in 1953 for one stream of pupils to take the Junior examination in Form Three, thus allowing two years to cover the syllabus for the Cambridge School Certificate. The new Sarawak Junior Secondary examination will be taken at the end of Form Three.

Classes for the Cambridge School Certificate were held at five schools from which 108 candidates, of whom 14 were girls, sat for the examination at the end of 1953. In the previous year there were 73 candidates of whom 46 were successful. In 1953 for the first time there were seven boys who took the full Higher Schools Certificate examination, and seven others who took individual subjects.

Reference has been made earlier in this report to building operations undertaken during the year by the managements of Mission schools, and especially to the erection of science laboratories and domestic science rooms at secondary schools with the assistance of grants under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. Mission agencies were successful in engaging from overseas a small number of teachers with science degrees.

In Mission schools in rural areas the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject. A number of new village schools were opened by Missions during the year, especially in the First Division. Promising pupils from these schools may proceed to the Higher Primary or Secondary sections of Mission English Schools, in some cases with financial assistance, from Government or from the Missions, or may be selected for admission to the Government School at Batu Lintang.

Mission schools are financed mainly by pupils' fees and by grants from the central government or local authority. In 1953 grants from the central government amounted to approximately \$160,833 (£18,763), compared with \$128,620 (£16,006) in the previous year. In addition, several Local Authorities gave financial assistance to mission primary schools in their areas. Provisional figures indicate that in 1953 Local Authorities spent about \$35,150 (£4,100) on grants-in-aid to these schools. For the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant from the central government was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff, while a more favourable formula was in force for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples. The grant for rural schools employing teachers trained at Batu Lintang was assessed at a rate which would enable managements, with the aid of a reasonable contribution from the community concerned, to pay these teachers the same emoluments as would be paid to similar teachers in the Government service.

### *Chinese Schools*

There were 238 Chinese Schools at the end of 1953, with 999 teachers and 30,084 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 225 schools with 936 teachers and 28,528 pupils. In the rural district of Sarikei, in the Third Division, increased prosperity from pepper production enabled a number of Chinese communities to open new schools in places where previously it



had been necessary for the children to travel considerable distances to school.

Most Chinese Schools are controlled by committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from Associations and individuals. "Block" grants, assessed on enrolment and efficiency, are paid to Chinese Schools on the Aided List. In addition, most of these schools qualified for a special grant in respect of teachers of English of an approved standard. Total grants amounting to about \$70,700 (£8,248) as compared with \$66,250 (£7,279) in 1952 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at 67 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of 15,117 pupils. In addition 35 Chinese Schools with an enrolment of 6,364 pupils were aided by four Local Authorities to a total extent of \$29,350.

There were 3 Junior Middle Schools and 12 schools had combined Primary and Middle Departments. A Senior Middle course was held at 3 schools. At the end of 1953, there were 2,727 pupils in the Middle sections of the Chinese School system compared with 2,033 at the end of the previous year.

The Chinese national language, Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction in Chinese Schools in Sarawak but increased attention has been given to the teaching of English as a subject.

The Common Examinations Board of the Chinese Schools in the Third Division continued to work satisfactorily. In December Common Examinations for the Primary and Junior Middle certificates for all Chinese Schools in the Third Division were successfully conducted in Sibu. Preliminary steps were taken by the Fourth Division schools to organise a common examination for pupils leaving Primary School.

A disappointingly low number of teachers in this section regard teaching as a career, and the short-term contracts offered by most Boards of Management result in a feeling of insecurity amongst teachers. There is therefore, little continuity in staffing at most schools, as resignations and transfers are far too common.

### *Teacher Training*

Teacher-training is carried on at Batu Lintang, near Kuching, at a Centre which serves the whole country. The staff consists

of a Principal, two Assistant Principals representing the Anglican and Roman Catholic Missions, and an assistant staff composed of local teachers and two teachers on secondment from the United Kingdom, one with qualifications in Handwork and Physical Training and the other a woman teacher trained in Infant and Junior methods.

The co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school is a most important feature of the Centre, where students of many races, religions and languages have successfully developed a mutual understanding and corporate spirit.

This important scheme was still conducted in reconditioned camp huts. It is hoped however to go ahead with plans for permanent buildings in 1954.

From its opening in 1948 the Training Centre was financed under a five-year Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme which expired in March 1953. From that date the Centre has been financed solely from Sarawak funds.

All student teachers receive free board, tuition and transport, and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme regardless of the financial circumstances of his family.

Because of the time required by many students to reach their homes, there is only one term at Batu Lintang, with short "breaks" from February to November.

There are two courses for teachers, depending on their academic standard at the time of admission. The course for the Grade IIIA certificate caters for student-teachers with a standard about Primary IV. It is hoped that within a few years the minimum qualification will be raised to Primary VI. Because of the urgent demand for teachers the course was at first limited to two years, but it was decided that from the beginning of 1954 it would be lengthened to three years to meet the growing need for teachers capable of dealing with the Higher Primary classes. The Grade IIIA course trains teachers for District, Local Authority, Private and Mission Primary Schools throughout the Country. For the Grade IIA course, which lasts two years, Junior Secondary quali-



fications are required. This course trains teachers for Chinese and Mission Schools.

Both courses included the study of English, for which there is a demand from all peoples, and some academic subjects as well as a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods and of school organisation. Emphasis is also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and other aspects of indigenous cultures. Religious instruction is arranged for both Christian and Muslim students and chapels are provided for different sects.

The two seconded teachers returned to the United Kingdom during the year, at the end of the period of their agreements. Efforts were being made to recruit replacements for 1954. One local member of the staff left for the United Kingdom on a scholarship to study teaching methods. During the first half of the year, under arrangements made with the Medical Department, a Health Educator who had come to Sarawak under the auspices of the World Health Organisation was attached to the Centre and did valuable work in the training of teachers in Health Education.

There were 74 students, including 17 from Brunei, taking the Grade IIIA course in 1953, and 23 students taking the Grade IIA course. At the end of the year 34 students, including 7 from Brunei, qualified for Grade IIIA certificates, and 7 students qualified for Grade IIA certificates. These seven students were the first group of this grade to pass out of the Training Centre. Applications at the end of 1953 gave promise of a further increase in numbers and in academic standards. Unfortunately only 10 of the total enrolment of 91 students in 1953 were women. The total number of Certificated Teachers who have been trained at Batu Lintang is now 225.

Reports on the work of trained teachers from Batu Lintang continue to be encouraging. Contact between former students and the Centre is maintained through the periodic issue of a News Letter and by visits from members of the staff during the holiday at the end of each year.

#### *Higher Education*

Fifteen scholarships for study at overseas institutions were awarded during the year by the Government of Sarawak. Ten

of these scholarships were for study in the United Kingdom and comprised courses in Architecture, Law, Accountancy, Commercial Subjects, Education and Domestic Science. Two Government scholarships were for courses at the University of Malaya, in General Science and in Dentistry. Arrangements were made for two students to take courses in Surveying at the Kuala Lumpur Technical College and for one apprentice to receive training under the Singapore Harbour Board.

Under the Colombo Plan the Australian Government awarded a Fellowship for a course in Social Welfare, and another Fellowship for a course in Forestry, to two officers of the Sarawak Government. The New Zealand Government, also under the Colombo Plan, made a Training Award for a course in Surveying to a Sarawak Government officer.

The British Council granted a bursary to an officer of the Sibu Urban District Council for the study of Local Government in Britain.

The Sino-British Fellowship Trust awarded a fellowship to a Sarawak nurse for a course in children's nursing at London hospitals.

A few students made their own financial arrangements for admission to overseas institutions. These included four students who entered a Technical College in Australia. A private student from Kuching was successful in passing his degree examination in Law at an English university .

At the end of the year there were 32 Sarawak students studying at overseas institutions under scholarship schemes awarded by the Government of Sarawak, the British Government under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand under the Colombo Plan, the British Council and the Sino-British Fellowship Trust.

#### *Community Development and Adult Education*

The Department's principal scheme of community development is the Rural Improvement School at Kanowit. This School provides a two-year course designed to help selected couples and young men to gain a practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant wel-



The Reading Room  
in the new Sara-  
wak Constabulary  
Canteen and Club  
at Sibul





The British Red Cross Society: the Countess of Limerick speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of the new building of the Sarawak Branch in Kuching, on 25th March, 1953





fare, to become literate in their own vernacular and to learn simple farm arithmetic. During the course students receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The main building consists of a community centre of an improved "longhouse" design which provides class-rooms, dining and recreation rooms and a dispensary. Students and their families live during the course in the longhouse or in individual farm houses of different designs, which have been built on small holdings within the school estate. This arrangement provides pupils with an opportunity to compare different types of accommodation so that they can begin to form opinions as to which would be the more suitable for their areas. The school grounds occupy some 400 acres, one third of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agriculture, especially wet padi farming. The scheme was financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds from its beginning in May 1948 to April, 1952, since when it became a charge upon Sarawak's revenue.

Twelve couples completed the two-year course in April 1953 by which date 50 couples had passed out of the School since it unmarried men went on satisfactorily. Plans were under consideration for the provision of a pre-marriage course for young women.

The School was fortunate in having the services of an Agricultural Development Officer, loaned from Australia under the Colombo Plan, who took charge of the scheme while the substantive Principal was on leave. The nurse and health visitor, who was in charge of the training of women and the health department of the school, was transferred to the Medical Department. Suitable Asian assistants have not yet been secured, though the position was improved by the transfer to the school of a trained Dayak woman teacher.

More machinery was introduced during the year and the erection of a Machine Shop was completed. Carpentry lessons were given to all pupils by a qualified instructor. About 20 acres of forest were felled and cleared for padi cultivation. Increased attention was given to the production of vegetables and the care of livestock. The School co-operative store made good progress.

Every effort is made to ensure that discharged pupils have the fullest opportunity of putting into practice what they have learned during their training. During 1953 the Principal made follow-up tours in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions, and valuable help was given to former pupils by Administrative and Agricultural Officers. With few exceptions, former pupils are putting to good use the knowledge they have gained at the School and are in many cases influencing their neighbours.

A small scheme of Community Development was begun in the Muara Tuang area of the First Division. This scheme was a combined effort by the Department of Agriculture, Co-operative Development, Education and Medical Services. The Education Department was chiefly concerned with adult literacy. Classes were started in March, using books produced in Malaya based on the Laubach teaching method. A film-strip projector was also used. A teacher was seconded from the Government Service to conduct the classes. Out of 205 men who attended, 163 passed the literacy tests and were awarded badges. It was estimated that 200 adults would become literate within twelve months from the beginning of the scheme. Unfortunately no women would attend these classes. It has not yet been possible to recruit a woman teacher.

A promising scheme of development among the Sea Dayaks at Budu in the Second Division was initiated at the beginning of 1953 and later in the year came under the sponsorship of the Community Development Committee which provided funds for its maintenance and expansion. The Dayaks in this area were responding well to energetic leadership and were contributing from their own resources and efforts to the successful operation of several connected schemes of rural development.

#### YOUTH WORK AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

##### *General*

Several associations and clubs (some conducted by old students of schools) whose objects are to foster social, educational and cultural activities, were active during the year. An Amateur Athletic Association was formed in Kuching under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor. Football and Badminton were popular games, and there was a notable increase in sporting



activities, especially basket-ball matches, among Chinese youths both in and outside schools. There is however in the urban areas still a lack of recreational facilities for boys and girls who have recently left school. The main need is for trained leaders to help in the organisation of voluntary youth movements. There is little doubt that with guidance from experienced persons much progress could be made in the organisation of athletic societies and in furthering the growth of the Boy Scout movement. As a step towards meeting this need, a new post of Welfare Assistant, who would work under the general guidance of the Social Welfare Council, was created during the year.

### *The British Council*

The British Council continued to do valuable educational work and expanded many of its activities. The Council's library and reading room at Kuching and Sibü provided general reading for students and teachers. Book boxes were circulated to 112 schools, including many in remote rural areas. Material lent to schools included gramophones and records, sheet music, filmstrips and projectors, and framed pictures. One hundred schools received presentations from the British Council of an illustrated teaching periodical. A programme of monthly film shows was arranged for schools and clubs in Kuching. An exhibition of children's paintings showing work done in Sarawak, Australian and British schools was presented jointly with the Kuching Art Club. Teachers from many parts of the country attended the athletics coaching courses given by Mr. H. A. L. Chapman, the Chief Scottish Coach, who visited Sarawak for the British Council. A Secondary School Teachers' Week was organised for teachers from Sibü and Kuching. With financial assistance from Government and from the Kuching Rotary Club, the Council organised evening carpentry classes in Kuching, which were well attended.

### *Scouting*

Scouting in Sarawak continued to develop throughout the year, but the lack of a travelling Commissioner prevented a more rapid development of the movement. A demand for scouting persists, but it will be a long time before competent leaders are available to give the necessary training. A start has however been made by the appointment of an Assistant Chief Commissioner for Training, the benefit of whose activities has already been felt.

### *Girl Guides*

During 1953 the number of Guide Companies increased from three to five and of Brownie Packs from two to four. The first Ranger Company was formed in February. At the end of the year the total number of Guides was approximately 150, with 24 Rangers and 90 Brownies. The first four Guides to pass the First Class test received their badges in June. During the last quarter of the year a Guide Supplement was included in the Scout magazine, *The Sarawak Scout*. This supplement was written and edited by the Guiders themselves. The lack of trained Guiders in the movement is still a handicap but six of the Rangers were preparing to receive their warrants as Guiders.

### *Boys Clubs*

The Boys' Club and Hostel in Padungan, Kuching, continued to fill a useful function in providing recreation for boys in Padungan and giving accommodation to homeless boys. A club leader for the Sibu Boys' Club and Youth Centre was sent to Malaya for six months' training. The proposed site for the permanent buildings at Sibu has taken disappointingly long to settle but limited activities began in borrowed premises.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

The Government Medical Services of Sarawak have to be spread very thinly over a country the size of England and Wales, and a population of about 600,000. Although every effort is made to provide medical services for the widely dispersed rural population, it is inevitable that the more highly developed forms of both preventive and therapeutic medicine must be concentrated in the urban centres.

Medical Services in Kuching, the capital, are reasonably good, both on the public health and the hospital side. There is a general hospital of about 300 beds, which deals with all forms of medical, surgical and obstetrical work, although, like most hospitals in all parts of the world it is not big enough to cope with all the demands made on it.

This is especially true of gynaecological and obstetrical work, which has expanded enormously in recent years. This increase in women and childrens' work in 1953 made necessary the opening of additional clinics in Kuching, one in a kampong



across the river, and another in the eastern part of the town. Government approval was also given for the provision of funds for building yet another clinic just outside Kuching. Rural maternity and child welfare work centred upon Kuching also expanded enormously, and a small clinic in an improvised shelter was begun at Tarat, about 40 miles out.

There are special wards for about 200 mental cases adjoining the Kuching hospital, but they are old-fashioned in style and construction, and modern accommodation and facilities for the treatment of mental patients are urgently needed. The proposal for a joint Borneo Territories mental hospital was abandoned in 1953; a new mental hospital for Sarawak alone is now being proposed for a site near Kuching.

There is a Dental Clinic at the General Hospital in charge of a fully qualified Dental Officer with two assistants, one of whom, a Sarawak Government Scholar, qualified in Singapore, and began work about the middle of 1953.

Out-patient work in Kuching is done principally in four places. A large number of special out-patients are seen at the General Hospital, and tuberculosis out-patients attend the new Clinic, built by the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak, named after the principal benefactor Mr. Wee Kheng Chiang and opened by His Excellency the Governor last March. It has, among other facilities, equipment for mass radiography.

General male and female out-patients attend adjoining buildings in the centre of the town, where there is also a Women's and Children's Clinic, too small for the demands upon its services, for pre-natal work. A new building, a Health Centre for out-patients, will probably be ready for occupation about the middle of 1954. There has been a great increase in in-patients and out-patients (especially the latter) with an emphasis on Women and Children's work.

At the General Hospital there is a small but efficient laboratory in the charge of a technician who has received some training in the United Kingdom. It deals with chemical and medico-legal analyses, as well as the usual medical and clinical work.

On a very pleasant site about 13 miles out of Kuching there is a Leprosarium of the village type, with about 450 patients. The administration of this settlement was strengthened in February by the arrival of an experienced Leper Superintendent. Under his guidance great progress was made during the year in the internal organisation of the settlement where committees for the three principal communities, Chinese, Malays and Dayaks, now play an important part in administration. Some new buildings were erected and old ones renewed. As elsewhere, the principal problem was the re-habilitation of patients fit for discharge from the settlement.

Medical Services in Sibü are not yet as good as in Kuching, but Sibü is a rapidly developing town, and there are plans for the expansion of the hospital and a general improvement in the Public Health facilities. In 1953 minor alterations were made to the hospital to provide some private ward accommodation.

The new out-patient Department opened by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent in October 1952, is already too small for the work passing through it and it is hoped to build an extension soon.

Medical Services in Simanggang are less highly developed. There is a small hospital of 40 beds with one doctor, who also has to supervise the whole of the 2nd Division. There are plans for enlarging the Simanggang hospital to over 100 beds as funds permit; it is felt that 40 beds form an uneconomical unit for one doctor.

In Miri a small Government hospital was built in 1952, but staff difficulties delayed the opening until December 1953. By agreement with the Oil Company, this hospital is used for patients suffering from tuberculosis and is managed by the Company's medical staff on payment by the Government of an agreed sum annually.

The Government also maintained 24 fixed and 16 travelling dispensaries. A typical fixed dispensary is a small wooden building of about four rooms in charge of a locally trained hospital assistant. It deals with out-patients suffering from all the commoner diseases, and has rest beds for up to about 10 patients,



who may use them overnight, or for longer periods, according to circumstances. Patients attending these dispensaries must often travel for a day or more from their homes. A travelling dispensary is a locally built open boat about 35 feet long with a kajang or attap awning, and powered by an outboard motor. It sets out from its base on a river journey of about a week, and calls at many places, providing simple treatments. The work of these travelling dispensaries was much hampered during the year by mechanical troubles with boats and engines, and by the need for frequent deviation from a travel schedule.

The appointment during the year of a fully qualified European male nurse, whose duty it will be to supervise these travelling dispensaries, should much improve their efficiency. In spite of their many shortcomings they are an important and valuable arm of the Medical Department and take the advantages of modern medicine to some of the most out-of-the-way places in Sarawak.

One of the greatest problems in organizing medical services is the provision of medical attention in these inaccessible places. Two young men from the Kelabit Plateau were recruited during the year, and by arrangement with and at the sole expense of the Brunei Branch of the British Red Cross Society, they are being trained at the Oil Company's hospital in Kuala Belait. When their training is completed they will be employed by the Sarawak Government and will return to their own country to practice what they have been taught. There is already one such trained man living and working in one of the most inaccessible parts of this country, and it is hoped that these two will further the good work, but as they must work almost entirely without supervision much depends on the calibre of the men.

The training programme for rural midwives begun towards the end of 1952 suffered a setback at Simanggang when the lady employed for this work had to return to the United Kingdom, but it went very well in Kuching and Sibu. At the end of the year there were 35 pupil rural midwives in training, and of these only 23 were paid by the government. The rest were paid by their own communities.

Perhaps the most important work in 1953 was that of the Anti-Malarial Team led by Dr. Julian de Zulueta, of the World

Health Organization. After preliminary surveys and investigations covering the whole country this team moved early in the year to Marudi on the Baram River and there began an experimental pilot project to show whether, under conditions peculiar to this part of Borneo, malaria could be controlled by residual spraying. From the epidemiological point of view there are two kinds of malaria in Sarawak. There is the epidemic malaria of the coastal plains caused by the brackish water mosquito, (*Anopheles sunndaicus*), well known in Malaya and amenable to control by residual spray. The other is endemic malaria of the inland districts caused by a vector peculiar to Borneo (*Anopheles leucosphyrus*) which was the subject of this experiment.

There is, for two reasons, some doubt about the effectiveness of this experiment. The first is that *leucosphyrus* does not habitually rest on the walls of the houses, and the second that most of the indigenous population of this part of Borneo spend part of the year sleeping at padi farms away from houses. The work was helped by a visit of two months from an Entomologist of the University of Malaya, Mr. D. M. Colless, who elucidated certain technical details with regard to the taxonomy of *leucosphyrus*.

It will take about a year for scientifically conclusive results to be obtained from this pilot experiment, but it began to appear almost certain, by the end of 1953, that residual spraying on the Baram River did indeed control malaria. This is of paramount importance and if the final results bear out this tentative finding it is proposed to seek financial provision to control malaria by this means throughout the whole country.

Other help from W.H.O. during the year was the visit of a specialist hospital architect who made sketch for the expansion of the hospitals at Sibuluan and Simanggang and for a possible new rural hospital of about 50 beds.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

The Sarawak Welfare Organization is an experiment. An attempt is being made to organise Social Welfare work entirely through voluntary bodies with no special Government Department.



The outstanding feature of 1953 has been the gradual emergence of a pattern for the organization of Social Welfare. Towards the end of 1952 consideration was given to the incorporation of the Social Welfare Council by legislation. As an incorporated body the Council would have the advantage of owning property and employing staff, but there were also disadvantages and the proposal was abandoned. It will no doubt soon become necessary to provide a constitution for the Council, but it is probably wise to delay this until the pattern of organization is clear.

The Chairman and certain other Members are appointed by the Governor-in-Council, and some of the Members are nominated by public bodies. The Council has met monthly through the year, and has largely been the ruling body for Social Welfare work. The funds available to the Council came from two principal sources, a Government grant of \$60,000 (a sum related approximately to the Government revenue from the tax on public lotteries), and a percentage of the profit on the combined lottery explained below.

Before 1953 the Government permitted various bodies to hold country-wide lotteries. Among these were the Sarawak Turf Club, the Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society, the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak, the Sibu Benevolent Society and the Social Welfare Council itself. Early in 1953 it was agreed that one big combined lottery should be run. A share of the profits of this lottery for charitable purposes is paid to the Social Welfare Council, which helps as required in the financing of the charitable bodies. In 1953 the Council received about \$34,000 but in a full year it should draw about \$60,000.

It has been very satisfactory to note the formation during the year of District Relief Committees. With a few notable exceptions, these Committees were small working bodies administering relief in their districts for destitution from tuberculosis and any other cause. These committees are the agents not only of the Social Welfare Council, but also of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association and the Prisoners' Aid Society.

Each District Relief Committee has a constitution suited to local conditions. All are financed by the Social Welfare Council,

but for some money is also raised locally, and this may well grow. In Sibü charitable and welfare work is almost entirely the concern of the powerful Sibü Benevolent Society which, maintains an Old Peoples' Home at Salim, and a Home for the chronically sick in Sibü. The Kanowit and Sarikei Benevolent Societies also did good work in their districts.

At end of 1953 District Relief Committees had been established or were in process of formation at Bau, Baram, Betong, Bintulu, Kuching, Lawas, Limbang, Lundu, Miri, Mukah, Serian and Simanggang. There is now nowhere in the country where people must suffer for want of charitable relief.

#### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY: SARAWAK BRANCH

The highlight for the Branch in 1953 was the visit in March of the Countess of Limerick D.B.E., Vice Chairman of the Executive in London, and Miss Joan Whittington, M.B.E., J.P., Director of Overseas Branches. During her short stay Lady Limerick laid the foundation stone of the Branch's Headquarters Building in Kuching. This building, costing about \$50,000, was completed during the year and was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on November 11th. The money was raised by the untiring efforts of the members and the very willing co-operation of the Public.

The Branch has four Divisions, Kuching, Simanggang, Betong and Miri and towards the end of the year a meeting was held in Saratok at which it was decided to form a Saratok Division, to come into being on January 1st, 1954.

Much welfare work was done such as providing clothing for the needy and milk for their small children; visiting the homes of the handicapped and teaching them to make saleable articles; occupational therapy in the male and female T.B. blocks, the female mental block and the children's ward in the General Hospital in Kuching the distribution of magazines and books to outstation hospitals; regular visits to the Leper Settlement where an Associate Group, whose members are lepers, do splendid work; visits by a Dayak member of the Kuching Division, who is a trained nurse and midwife, to outlying kampongs to teach mothers the principles of hygiene. On one visit she learnt of the sad plight of two small orphan boys, one of whom was blind.



After a very gruelling two days' journey, during which she and her guide were lost for some hours in the jungle, she found the children and brought them back with her.

Both the Kuching and Miri Division ran an ambulance service.

Training of Detachments continued and members did duty at sports, races meetings and parades. During Coronation Week they were seldom off duty, working till late at night. Women members also helped at clinics in the Division.

Throughout the year but particularly during Coronation Week and at Christmas handicapped children and adults, children from the Salvation Army Home, and orphans from the Convent were taken on sight-seeing tours and entertained.

The Junior Red Cross made very good progress and several new links were formed, one being in a school on Singgi mountain. A Junior member from the Betong Division went to Britain for the Coronation and was a guest of the Society during her month's stay.





# X

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## LEGISLATION

IN the field of legislation the year has again been important in the sphere of reform and consolidation, although the principle of integrating the affairs of the Territory with those of its neighbours has continued to be observed in such pieces of legislation as the *Transfer of Prisoners Ordinance* and the *Air Navigation Ordinance*, and less immediately, in the *Sarawak Rangers Ordinance* and the *Customs Ordinance*.

One item of legislation that aroused some controversy was an amendment to section 117 of the *Criminal Procedure Code*, enabling any statement made to any police officer (authorized in that behalf by the Governor) to be admissible in evidence "in like manner and circumstances and to the like extent as if the law in relation thereto were the law from time to time in force in England": so, to a limited extent, bringing the law upon this topic into line with English law.

Another item of legislation, the enactment of which has followed the establishment of a unified judiciary for Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei, was the *Advocates Ordinance*, which prescribes the qualifications for advocates within the country, and as in most territories, enables solicitors entitled to practise as such in the Superior Courts of other British territories to practise in Sarawak.

Perhaps the most important piece of consolidating legislation was the *Interpretation Ordinance*, a comprehensive Ordinance profiting by recent parallel legislation in Singapore and Hong Kong and recognising, for perhaps the first time in Sarawak law, the existence of a body of administrative law, by prescribing a set of Administrative Appeal Rules. Further consolidating legislation is to be found, however, in the *Trade Marks Ordinance*, the *Merchandise Marks Ordinance* and the *Forests Ordinance*.

## ORDINANCES

Among the more important Ordinances enacted during the years were the following—

GENERAL LOANS AND STOCKS ORDINANCE—This Ordinance was enacted to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorized to be raised by the legislature of Sarawak, to provide for the creation of Sarawak stock and to enable the country to take advantage of the provisions of the United Kingdom Colonial Stocks Acts 1877 to 1948. The Ordinance prescribes the procedure and conditions relating to all loans issued by Sarawak in the United Kingdom: it will not apply to any loans which may be raised in Sarawak.

TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE—This Ordinance is designed to repeal and replace the existing Trade Marks Ordinance, and to bring the law of the country into conformity with that of Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, North Borneo and Brunei, once a unified registry of trade marks has been established. At the end of the year the Ordinance had not, however, yet been brought into force.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDINANCE—This Ordinance is complementary to the Trade Marks Ordinance in that it makes provisions regarding offences connected with trade marks. Although the Penal Code punishes offences in relation to trade marks, this Ordinance makes provision of a somewhat more comprehensive nature so as to bring the law of the country into conformity with that of other territories taking advantage of any unified registry of trade marks.

ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, a comprehensive piece of legislation designed, *inter alia*, to provide for the grant of franchises in respect of passenger and goods road services. This Ordinance was due to come into force on April 1, 1954

GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS ORDINANCE—This Ordinance made provision for all matters relating to the custody or upbringing of an infant and the administration of property belonging to or held in trust for the infant, and follows, with slight modifications, the general principles of English law relating to the guardianship of infants. The Ordinance applies to all infants in the country irrespective of race or creed.



WRITTEN LAW (SIMPLIFIED PUBLICATION) ORDINANCE, by virtue of which, with effect from January 1, 1954, the *Gazette* will appear in five parts, dealing with particular types of legislation, etc., and the former Supplements will be superseded.

HYPODERMIC SYRINGES (CONTROL) ORDINANCE, a measure in effect supplementary to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1952, and designed to control the use and possession of hypodermic syringes. The enactment of this Ordinance was considered necessary to prevent the unauthorized use of hypodermic syringes.

SHIPPING MASTER (ABOLITION OF OFFICE) CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE—The Ordinance provided for the change of title of the “Shipping Master” to that of the “Director of Marine”, and made the Governor in Council the authority to make regulations under section 3 of the Ports and Shipping Regulations (Validation) Ordinance.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE—This Ordinance provided that if Cession Day, Liberation Day or the birthday of His Highness the Rajah falls on a Monday, that day shall be a public holiday. If not, the nearest Monday to that day shall be the holiday.

SARAWAK RANGERS ORDINANCE, which made provision for the raising and maintaining of military forces for service outside Borneo, gave effect to and regularized arrangements already made for recruiting in Sarawak for military service in Malaya, and amended the Volunteer Force Ordinance.

AIR NAVIGATION ORDINANCE, which incorporates by reference legislation relating to air navigation made in Singapore, and so brings the law into line with that of Singapore and North Borneo.

ADVOCATES ORDINANCE, regulating the admission of advocates in the country and making provision for matters relating to the conditions under which such persons shall be entitled to practise.

FORESTS ORDINANCE. The increasing importance of the timber trade made it necessary to revise and replace the former Forests Ordinance.

The first of the year was a very successful one for the  
company. The sales were up to the mark and the  
profits were also very good. The management  
was very satisfied with the results.

The second of the year was also a very successful one.  
The sales were up to the mark and the profits were  
also very good. The management was very  
satisfied with the results.

The third of the year was a very successful one.  
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was also a very successful one. The sales were  
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the results. The fifth of the year was also a  
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mark and the profits were also very good. The  
management was very satisfied with the results.

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the results.

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the results.

The tenth of the year was a very successful one.  
The sales were up to the mark and the profits were  
also very good. The management was very  
satisfied with the results. The eleventh of the year  
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up to the mark and the profits were also very  
good. The management was very satisfied with  
the results. The twelfth of the year was also a  
very successful one. The sales were up to the  
mark and the profits were also very good. The  
management was very satisfied with the results.





Anna Studio

An Iban—Sea-Dayak—at Kapit, on the Rejang River in the Third Division



Iban sister and  
brother at Rumah  
Engkapang, Ulu  
Undup, Second  
Division





# XI

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## LAW AND ORDER

### JUSTICE

**A** PART from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinance and native customary law. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance, is recognised to a limited extent, but only insofar as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance.

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the country and of its inhabitants permit, and subject to such qualifications local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

#### *The Supreme Court*

On the 1st December, 1951, the Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (Courts) Order in Council, 1951, came into force. This Order in Council established one Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal, for Sarawak and North Borneo and the State of Brunei. The Court of Appeal has its headquarters in Kuching, but sits as occasion may require in other places in Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei.

The present disposition of the Judges is as follows: the Chief Justice at Kuching, the Senior Puisne Judge at Jesselton, North Borneo, and two other Puisne Judges, one at Kuching and the other at Sibul. The newly-established High Court supersedes the former Circuit Courts, and the appellate jurisdiction, formerly exercised by the Chief Justice of Sarawak, now vests in the newly-established Court of Appeal.

During the year, for Sarawak, 163 criminal cases and 350 civil actions were heard in the High Court as compared with 130 criminal cases and 334 civil actions in 1952. For Sarawak in the Court of Appeal 19 criminal appeals and 25 civil appeals were heard as compared with 16 criminal appeals and 25 civil appeals in 1952.

### *The Lower Courts*

The Courts presided over by magistrates are the District Court (Civil and Criminal); the Court of Small Causes (Civil); the Police Court (Criminal); and the Petty Court (Civil and Criminal). One legally qualified magistrate sits at Kuching and the remaining magistrates are administrative officers who do magisterial work as part of their duties. It is hoped shortly to recruit additional men with legal qualifications as magistrates for Sibu and Miri.

On the 1st May, 1952, a new Courts Ordinance came into force. In the exercise of their civil jurisdiction Courts of Magistrates have jurisdiction in every civil matter whereof the value in dispute does not exceed in the case of the Magistrates of the First Class five hundred dollars or where the Chief Justice by notification in the *Government Gazette* confers upon any magistrate special jurisdiction then in a Court presided over by such magistrate one thousand dollars; in the case of the Magistrates of the Second Class two hundred and fifty dollars; and in the case of the Magistrates of the Third Class fifty dollars. Courts of Magistrates have no jurisdiction in proceedings in connection with application for partition of immovable property; the specific performance or rescission of contracts; the cancellation or rectification of instruments; the enforcement of trusts; and in connection with applications for declaratory decrees. In the exercise of their criminal jurisdiction the powers of the Courts of Magistrates are as provided in the Criminal Procedure Code.

There are also the Native Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance. These are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to a Resident's Native Court, constituted by the Resident of a Division sitting with a Native Officer and two assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a Resident other than the Resident from whose Court the



appeal lay) and with two assessors, who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

A comparison of the figures of cases tried in the lower Courts in 1952 and 1953 shows that there is little change. The incidence of crime, particularly serious crime, fortunately remains low. Traffic cases, however, show a marked increase over the 1952 figures but this is accounted for by the fact that the police showed greater activity in 1953 in prosecuting offenders and does not indicate any marked deterioration in the standard of care on the part of cyclists or motorists.

Mr. Justice E. H. Williams, Senior Puisne Judge, Hong Kong, was appointed Chief Justice of the Combined Judiciary in the place of the late Sir Ivor Brace and arrived in Sarawak on the 25th May, 1953.

#### *Probate and Administration*

In pursuance of the powers vested in him by section 3 of the Administration of Estates Ordinance (Cap. 80), the Registrar has assumed official administration of nine deceased persons' estates. These powers were exercised because either the persons entitled to administration were incompetent or there were no persons willing to administer the estates. These estates were duly administered and the assets and property, after payment of the deceaseds' just debts and liabilities, have been distributed and transmitted to the heirs and beneficiaries according to the shares they are entitled to by law and custom.

A large estate fell in during the year and paid the maximum rate of duty of 20%.

Eleven grants of Probate to the estates of persons dying estate, and fifty-two grants of Letters of Administration to estates of persons dying intestate have been granted.

Four re-sealings of foreign grants of Probate have been effected in respect of the estates and property of deceased persons in Sarawak.

*Lunatic Persons' Estates*

The Official Assignee administered one lunatic person's estate.

*Bankruptcy*

Two creditors' petitions in bankruptcy were filled and dealt with. The proceedings of one were later annulled upon the debtor settling the claims of the petitioning creditor.

*Deeds and Bills of Sales*

Two hundred and eight-five documents were registered under the provisions of the Registration of Deeds Ordinance (Cap. 84). The majority of these were powers of attorney, and hire-purchase agreements.

Fifty-three Bills of Sale were registered under the provisions of the Bills of Sales Ordinance (No. 7/49). The highest single transaction involved a sum of \$30,000 and the lowest \$130.

*Business Names and Limited Companies*

Forty-three new partnership businesses were registered. The majority of these are dealers in general merchandise and groceries. Seven business names registration certificates were cancelled.

Four locally incorporated and nine foreign limited companies were registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 86). Most of the foreign companies were insurance companies, and the local, timber companies.

*Patents and Trade Marks*

Four grants of "Exclusive Privileges" were issued during the year. All of these are United Kingdom Patents.

One hundred and fifty-eight trade marks were registered and sixteen renewals of registration effected.

*Trusts*

The Registrar administers a trust estate which was created by the will of a deceased person.

*Court Fees, Fines, Forfeiture and Deposits*

The volume of transactions under this head has increased considerably. The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$166,030 as compared with \$109,603.50 in 1952.



### *Money Lenders*

Three new Money Lenders' Licences were issued, and nine renewals effected.

### CONSTABULARY

Although there has been a substantial increase in the establishment, the Force has had a difficult year; in spite of improved recruitment which filled the Training School to capacity with 257 recruits, the Sectors have been short of men. Resources were strained by the despatch of a gazetted officer, 2 inspectors and 80 other ranks to reinforce the Brunei State Police. In the later part of the year the beats in Kuching were manned mainly by senior recruits from the Training School. Fortunately, the Force was not called upon to deal with serious trouble of any kind and will soon be up to establishment. A detailed programme of reorganisation is now under way and is already showing good results.

### *Strength and Distribution*

The 1953 establishment was increased by 12 gazetted officers, 12 inspectors and 401 N.C.Os. This will supply men for the Field Force and for an expanded Special Branch. At the end of 1953 the Force was below establishment by 7 gazetted officers and 238 other ranks. A substantial part of this figure is made up of vacancies for the Field Force; three platoons have still to be raised in 1954. The Constabulary Stores are now under the control of a qualified Quartermaster.

### *The Special Branch*

The Special Branch is now under the command of an Assistant Commissioner. Plans have been approved for an enlarged Special Branch Headquarters and for the establishment of Special Branches in each Sector. These will, in most cases, be under the control of a gazetted officer. Selected members of the rank and file are now sent to the Special Branch School in Kuala Lumpur for training and a number of gazetted officers have also passed through a Special Branch course in Kuala Lumpur. There has, unfortunately, been no improvement in the recruitment of Chinese and the Special Branch is very short of trained Chinese detectives. Two Chinese gazetted officers are expected soon, on transfer from Hong Kong.

### *The Field Force*

A well equipped camp was erected at Bukit Siol to train members of the newly created Field Force in jungle warfare and riot drill. The decision to raise this Force was taken at the end of 1952 as a result of the 1952 Emergency. A small instructional body of officers and men was sent to Malaya for special training in jungle warfare. Six platoons, each of 42 men, will be recruited at three monthly intervals and will eventually be stationed at Kuching, Sibul, Miri and Kuala Belait in Brunei, after a year's intensive training. Three platoons of Sea Dayaks were raised in 1953 and the first was posted to Kuala Belait at the end of the year. The Field Force is designed as a mobile striking unit which can operate anywhere in the Colony.

### *The Marine Branch*

This Branch, with a strength of 40 rank and file, is commanded by a gazetted officer. The two launches, P.M.L. *Margherita* and P.M.L. *La Fee*, steamed 11,235 and 10,576 miles respectively. The former has unfortunately proved unsuitable for river use and has spent a considerable time in dock with bent propellers. 43 sampans are attached to the stations for patrol use and 20 of them are fitted with outboard motors. It is planned to introduce an experimental aluminium alloy sampan next year.

### *Radio Branch*

The technical standards of the 18 police operators has been improved by intensive training and 15 of them have passed the Postmaster-General's test. New Marconi 100 watt transmitters and receivers have been installed at all Sector Headquarters and are giving good results. The V.H.F. network covering Kuching and Simanggang Sectors is still in effective operation, although the sets are difficult to maintain. Twenty portable transmitter-receivers for patrol use have been on order for a long time, but have not yet been delivered.

### *Transport Section*

7 new vehicles and 16 motor cycles were received during the year. Police drivers are now given regular training and 9 of them were sent to the Singapore Police Driving School for a special course.



### *The Band*

The Band is under the command of the Director of Music and consists of a Drum Major and 39 other ranks. A number of new instruments were received during the year. The Band gives regular public performances and carried out 39 engagements in various parts of the country.

### *Auxiliary Police*

The Auxiliary Police were used extensively in practically all Sectors. The members, although not fully trained, gave willing and valuable service and helped the Force through a difficult period. There is now no further need to employ the Auxiliary force on regular police duties and more attractive training facilities are necessary to keep the men together. It is hoped that regular camps will be organised next year, when an increased establishment of gazetted officers and inspectors will allow a more ambitious type of training .

### *Training and Education*

Gazetted officers and inspectors have been sent to Malaya to the Police College at Kuala Kubu, the Special Branch at Kuala Lumpur, and to the Army and Police Jungle Warfare Schools at Johore and Dusun Tua. 14 probationary inspectors were sent to the Police Depot at Kuala Lumpur and all future members of the Inspectorate will be trained there. The Force is indebted to the Commissioner of Police, Federation of Malaya, for allowing the use of his training establishments. Two N.C.O. refresher courses were held at the Training School; these were discontinued in the second half of the year, as the School was filled to capacity with recruits. A number of Field Force N.C.O. were sent to Malaya for a course of jungle warfare. Recruitment to the rank and file has improved and there is now no shortage of candidates. Illiteracy is a serious problem, but the men are anxious to learn.

### *Welfare*

A welfare grant from the Government supplies all station units with sports equipment of all kinds. Inspector and Rank and File Welfare Committees operate in all Sectors and their views are laid before the Commissioner at regular intervals. Recreation Rooms are provided in new stations. Clinics have been organised at Badrudin Barracks and the Police Training School, and a daily distribution of powdered milk to pregnant women and children is

provided through the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. Weekly cinema shows are put on at the Police Training School and Badrudin Barracks. The Constabulary Co-operative Society now has a membership of 677, as compared with 549 in 1952; the year's turnover was \$263,609. The Constabulary Thrift and Loan Society has a membership of 608, compared with 682 in 1952. Sports and games are encouraged in all stations. Badminton is played by all ranks and most stations have a court.

### *Casualties*

The total number of casualties was 174, compared with 107 last year. 46 men were dismissed for corruption and other serious offences. Discharge on medical grounds rose from 8 to 25, and 22 men were discharged as unlikely to become efficient. There were 63 resignations. No police were killed on duty during the year. The better supervision now possible as a result of the increase in the senior officer establishment is the cause of the increase in defaulter cases.

### *Buildings*

Two concrete blocks at Badrudin Barracks were converted into offices and now house Constabulary Headquarters, the Stores, the Special Branch and Kuching Sector Headquarters. The Central Police Station in Kuching has been remodelled to accommodate 50 men. A new canteen and two married blocks were completed at Badrudin Barracks. The Training School was enlarged by 24 sets of married quarters, barracks for 100 single men, and a new mess room and canteen. A complete training camp for the Field Force was erected at Bukit Siol. The new combined Sector Headquarters and Central Police Station at Sibu is nearing completion. Work has started on a new District Headquarters at Sarikei, and 6 sets of married quarters have already been completed. New stations and barracks have been built at Tebedu, Nonok, Buso and Sebuyau. In Miri a new Town Police Station, a Sector Headquarters and Field Force Camp will all be built in the near future.

### *Health*

Health is good. 3,151 cases were treated in the Police Dispensaries and 202 men were admitted to hospital. The physical condition of recruits on entry to the Training School is often poor; this particularly applies to the Land Dayaks. By the end of training each man gains an average of 11 lbs.



### *Uniform and Equipment*

New ceremonial full dress uniforms for the rank and file arrived in time for Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Parade. The present pattern of working uniform will be changed when present stocks of khaki material are exhausted. Members of the rank and file will wear grey shirts, khaki shorts, black leather belts, blue stockings and blue ankle puttees. The Field Force wear jungle-green uniform and equipment.

### *Traffic*

Traffic in the Kuching area is heavy and the roads are too narrow to carry the ever-increasing number of vehicles. A Traffic Branch of 30 N.C.Os. and constables has been set up in Kuching and has improved control of the town traffic. The standard of driving is low, and accidents are frequent on the Serian Road. It is anticipated that regular bus services and the enactment of a new Road Traffic Ordinance next year will improve matters. Traffic prosecutions are now so numerous that the Courts found it difficult to keep pace with the cases brought before them and there were serious arrears at the end of the year. By the end of the year the number of licensed motor vehicles and motor cycles in the First Division was 1,011 and 710, respectively. The total number registered (including bicycles) in the whole country was 26,807. There were 530 road accidents in Kuching, 25 in Sibü, 40 in Miri and 2 in Simanggang, in which 7 people were killed, 28 seriously injured, and 161 slightly injured.

### *Crime*

The crime rate is still extremely low. Murder cases rose by 3 cases from 7 to 10. Robbery dropped from 9 cases to 5. Criminal house trespass increased from 16 to 33. Theft from buildings and theft cases rose from 303 and 486 to 352 and 504, respectively. Extortion dropped from 5 cases to 4, and there were 2 cases of forgery. Suicides decreased from 21 to 20. Miscellaneous seizable offences increased from 25 to 40. Non-seizable offences rose from 5,246 to 6,426. Although this crime rate is low, it is on the increase. Steps are now in hand to train a properly equipped C.I.D.

### *Alien Registration*

The total number of aliens registered at 31st December, 1953 was 4,966.

## PRISONS

Standards of efficiency and discipline among warders were good. The right type of candidate was difficult to recruit and the establishment was never up to strength. Recruitment continued through the year: seven Malays, four Dayaks and one Indonesian have enrolled. Six warders resigned and one was dismissed.

There has been an increase in the number of prisoners in all prisons. 411 prisoners were committed, compared with 281 in 1952. Six female prisoners were received in 1953.

Recidivism was also higher. There were 27 cases compared with 17 in 1952. 13 recidivists out of a total of 311 prisoners were still serving sentences at the end of the year.

All prisons were inspected monthly by the Visiting Boards of Magistrates and representatives of various communities.

The Prisoners' Aid Society was formed and registered during the year. The Chairman and some members visited the Prison monthly, and interviewed prisoners who might need help on discharge. The Society gives financial help to prisoners' dependants needing it. The charitable work formerly done by the Kuching Rotary Club is now undertaken by this Society.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Kuching Prison on 24th June, 1953.

Representatives of various religious denominations visited prisoners in the Divisional Prisons.

There were no serious cases of sickness and no executions.

The following is a list of the present trade parties:—

Basket-making and reseating of chairs, Blatt-making, Coir mat-making, Brick-making, Tinsmithing, Blacksmithing, Carpentering, Shoe-repairing, Laundry, Tailoring, Builders and Chain Links Shop.

Revenue for the year was \$43,344.20. The value of the articles manufactured by the prison industries was \$65,827.00.



Remission of sentence is granted to prisoners sentenced to imprisonment exceeding one month. Remission granted to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth, and to those serving over one year one-fourth, of the sentence. Female prisoners serving sentences up to one year receive one-sixth, and over one year one-third, remission of sentence.

A prison lock-up was established in the Leper Settlement.

The Leaders and Trusted Prisoners system is working efficiently and the general earning scheme has proved a success.





## XII

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### PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

#### ELECTRICITY

**P**UBLIC Electricity Supplies are provided by Sarawak Electricity Supply Co., Ltd. The privately-held shares in the company were bought by the Government in 1953 and it is now managed on their behalf by Messrs. United Engineers Ltd., of Singapore.

The supply at Kuching is A.C., at Sibü A.C. and D.C. and at other stations D.C.

Considerable expansion took place in the Company's work. Five new small A.C. Stations were opened, at Bau, Limbang, Kanowit, Marudi and the 10th Mile Bazaar on the Kuching—Serian Road. Minor extensions were made at some of the smaller supply stations.

A new 500 KVA set was in process of being installed at Kuching. This will bring the total capacity up to 1,860 KVA.

A 275 KVA set was transferred from Kuching to Sibü. This increased the A.C. capacity there to 450 KVA.

At Miri, one 120 KVA and two 80 KW generators were installed. This increased the capacity to 430 KW D.C.

The installed generating capacities at the end of the year were:—

Kuching 1,360 KVA; Sibü 450 KVA and 62.5 KW; Miri 430 KW; Simanggang 25 KW; Betong 18 KW; Bau 31.5 KVA; 10th Mile Kuching-Serian Road 16.5 KVA; Sarikei 72 KW; Binatang 43 KW; Mukah 47 KW; Kanowit 31.5 KVA; Bintulu 44 KW; Marudi 31.5 KVA; Miri Hospital area 50 KW; Limbang 31.5 KVA.

The number of units generated at all stations during 1953 was 1,059,547, an increase of 15% over 1952. There were 4,214 consumers, an increase of 5%.

#### BROOKE DOCKYARD AND ENGINEERING WORKS

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works at Kuching is an establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management appointed by Government and including commercial representation.

A scheme has been prepared for the modernisation and extension of the dockyard services, including the construction of a new 100 foot slipway. The reorganisation will be spread over 3 years from 1954.

There is a drydock 240' by 40' and vessels up to 9' draught can be docked at spring tides. Adjoining the drydock is a slipway which can take launches up to 40' in length and of 13' beam. The machine shop is equipped to deal with repairs to the hulls and machinery of vessels and with general engineering work.

57 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 5,632 were drydocked in 1953 and 20 launches slipped for repairs. 7 wooden vessels were completely reconditioned, two steel vessels partially replated and one re-engined.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

##### *Kuching*

A gravity supply is obtained from a series of intakes in the Matang range about 10 miles from the town, feeding into two service tanks with a total capacity of 3,600,000 gallons. There are about 3,260 connections with an average daily consumption of 1,141,000 gallons. The potential demand is considerably higher.

Plans for the new pumped supply from the Sarawak River at Batu Kitang had to be altered because of abnormal flooding at the site. Modified plans were prepared, equipment ordered, and a contract for the construction of the works by a British firm was signed at the end of the year. The bulk of the 20" diameter pipes for the 11 mile pumping main arrived.



There was severe water shortage in a prolonged dry period; steps are being taken to improve existing supplies as far as possible until the new pumped supply is available.

#### *Sibu*

Water is pumped from the Rejang River to a purification plant and thence to a high level water tank holding 76,000 gallons. There are about 930 services consuming over 400,000 gallons a day. The supply is limited by the pumping capacity and is cut off between midnight and 5 a.m. Extensions are proposed.

Water is also supplied (as required) by barge from Sibu to the down-river towns of Sarikei and Binatang and occasionally to shipping at Tanjong Mani. 2,760 tons of water was supplied in this way in 1953.

Investigations were begun for piping water either jointly or by separate schemes to Sarikei and Binatang.

#### *Mukah*

The new scheme for a pumped and treated supply was completed except for a high level storage tank. An interim supply of raw water was pumped direct to the distribution system for 4 hours a day.

#### *Miri*

The town is supplied from the Sarawak Oilfields Company's system and the quantity available was increased after the installation of additional pumping equipment. A combined Company and Government Scheme is in hand. The Company will provide the water and the Government the distribution.

A new pump was put in for the small Tanjong Lobang supply and a small gravity scheme developed to augment the supply to places between the town and Tanjong Lobang.

#### *Other Supplies*

Gravity installations operate at Bau, Simunjan, Bintulu and Limbang. Reconstruction of the Bau supply was completed, but Simunjan was held up by the proposals to re-site the town and station. Schemes for improving the supply at Bintulu and Limbang and for providing one at Lawas were investigated.

## GAS

*Miri*

Progress was made with the laying of services for the natural gas supplied from the oilfields at Seria. A considerable reduction in the mains pressure has to be made for domestic use.

## PUBLIC WORKS

The staff position improved towards the end of the year, but some key posts remained unfilled and the serious lack of trained technical assistance makes it difficult for the Department to cope with increasing demands or to give adequate supervision to works undertaken. The design and supervision of major building projects has had to be entrusted to a Singapore firm of architects. Building costs dropped in 1953 but they are still considerably higher than four years ago.

24 Senior Service quarters (8 of which are temporary) and 122 Junior Service quarters were completed or in progress. A block of 12 Senior Service flats in Kuching was begun.

Under the VHF Telecommunication Scheme a large building programme was started and about one-third of it completed. It includes a Training Centre at Kuching, headquarters at Simanggang, Sibü and Miri, and relay stations throughout the country. Quarters to be provided, in addition to those mentioned above, are 5 Senior Service and 79 Junior Service, many in isolated places; and also four barracks, a training school and four workshops.

For the Police Rehousing Scheme, major extensions were made at the Police Training School in Kuching, a Field Force headquarters camp built, construction of Field Force accommodation and sector headquarters started at Miri, and four new station barracks built in other places. Considerable alterations and additions were made to a portion of Badrudin barracks in Kuching for use as Constabulary headquarters and to the Central Police Station for barracks accommodation.

A fifth part of the work on the new Government Offices was done at Kuching and the new Government block at Sibü was nearly finished. New offices were built at Berkenu.





Sebop boys at play,  
at Rumah Ting-  
gang Keling, Long  
Buroi, on the Da-  
poi River in the  
Ulu Tinjar, Fourth  
Division



Kenyah students at  
a lecture at Batu  
Lintang Training  
Centre and School,  
Kuching





Broadcasting House in Kuching was under construction, and the Transmitter Station and mast foundations for the Broadcasting Service were completed.

A large new Health Centre was in progress at Kuching, some alterations and additions were made at Sibul hospital, and extra works carried out at Miri hospital to enable it to be put into use. Additional accommodation was built at the Leper settlement and four dispensaries or clinics erected in various places.

New or extended bazaar sites were under preparation at Simanggang, Sibul, Berkenu and Limbang.

A new Customs Import godown was nearly completed in Kuching and godowns were erected for the Supply Department in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

In Kuching, the first stages of the re-siting further upriver of the landing station at Pending were completed. An Oil Wharf at Bukit Biawak and the access road were nearly finished. Extensive repairs and reconditioning were done at Kuching wharves. At Sibul, good progress was made with the Port Development scheme. Piled foundations for 2 large Customs buildings were completed and Chinese launch wharves with access thereto were constructed. The designs for the main wharf extensions and the retaining wall are being drawn by consultants. The first section of the new concrete pontoon wharf for Sarikei was launched and towed into position.

A party of Royal Engineers carried out blasting operations to remove dangerous rocks in the major rapids of the Rejang River above Kapit. The full programme was not carried out because of high water in the working season but what has been accomplished has reduced navigational hazards in the worst parts.

The dredging of the Sungei Kut canal was begun. Because of the novel conditions and our unfamiliarity with this type of work, early progress was slow but it improved later with a change of technique. As a result of experience, a modified and larger dredger has been ordered, and this should speed up operations.





# XIII

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### WATER

**B**ECAUSE of the lack of roads, the principal means of transport and communication is by sea and river.

During the year a weekly passenger and freight service between Kuching and Singapore was maintained by the Sarawak Steamship Company Limited, and The Straits Steamship Company Ltd. maintained a weekly service from Singapore to Miri and North Borneo ports and a three weekly service from Singapore to Pending, Miri and North Borneo ports. An increasing number of ocean carriers called at Tanjong Mani. Vessels of the Blue Funnel and Ben Lines make fairly regular calls.

Coastal services were fairly regularly maintained by the Sarawak Steamship Company's *Meluan*, *Timbali* and *Margaret*, and the Government owned M.V. *Lucille*, under the management of the Sarawak Steamship Company, served the Fourth and Fifth Divisions. A large number of smaller craft, mostly Chinese owned, plied between river and coastal ports, carrying passengers and freight.

#### *Government Owned Craft*

The re-constructed *La Fee*, formerly *Lyndhurst*, was taken over in January whilst a new powered lighter *Dunmore II*, the launch *Nyamok* and the landing craft *Teddie* went into service during the year. It was decided that it would be uneconomic to carry out repairs to *La Follette* and she was taken out of service towards the end of the year and is to be disposed of. The demands for launch transport still exceed what can be provided by the launches available.

#### *Casualties*

On the 12th December 1953 the Government Buoys and Lights Tender *Heartsease* capsized and sank, with the loss of six lives,

whilst entering the Rejang River during extremely heavy weather. Two commercially owned launches became total losses through fire and two capsized near Lingga, fortunately without loss of life.

#### *Navigational Aids*

A new light was installed at Kuala Selalang and considerable progress was made in the installation of a new light at Jerijeh. At Kuala Lawas, an experimental lighted marker buoy was laid.

#### *Registration & Survey*

68 new craft of all types were registered during the year and 513 were surveyed for allocation of Load-Line and Passenger Certificates.

#### *Visits of Naval Vessels*

In June H.M.S. *Michael* visited Sibü and in September H.M.S. *Cossack* visited Pending.

#### TOTAL DEEP SEA TONNAGE 1953

				<i>Inwards</i>	<i>Outwards</i>
Rejang River	...	...	...	339,542	329,055
Kuching	...	...	...	69,712	68,970
Miri	...	...	...	2,601,816	2,597,290
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...			3,011,070	2,995,315
				<hr/>	<hr/>

#### TOTAL COASTWISE TONNAGE 1953

				<i>Inwards</i>	<i>Outwards</i>
Kuching	...	...	...	95,853	101,059
Simanggang	...	...	...	8,817	8,955
Sibu	...	...	...	44,330	43,741
Mukah	...	...	...	15,740	16,902
Bintulu	...	...	...	37,321	35,002
Miri	...	...	...	37,935	41,109
Limbang	...	...	...	4,430	4,443
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...			244,426	251,211
				<hr/>	<hr/>



## AIR

At Sibü, the airfield was closed for three months for repairs. New terminal buildings were nearly completed. At Bintulu, the reconstruction of the bomb-damaged airstrip, to form a link in the projected internal air service, was begun. A plan for the development of an internal air service is proceeding and it is hoped that it will be in partial operation before the end of 1954.

*Government Airports*

There are Airports at Kuching and Sibü manned by the Department of Civil Aviation.

Kuching Airport (I.C.A.O. Classification E5) has an all-weather asphalt macadam-surfaced runway 4,500 feet long and 150 feet wide, with excellent approaches. There are consolidated earth areas of 175 feet on each side, and 200 feet at each end, of the runway and the provision of a grass surface is progressing. There is an asphalt macadam parking apron adjoining the Terminal Building.

Sibü Airport (I.C.A.O. Classification F6) has a grass-gravel runway 3,600 feet long and 150 feet wide. Work is also progressing here on the side clearance and overrun areas. The Terminal Building and Control Tower are temporary, but permanent buildings are expected to be ready for use in February, 1954.

There are also emergency landing grounds at Trombol and Bintulu. The Bintulu ground is under reconstruction. It will be used by the internal air service and usable by Dakota standard aircraft as a diversion airfield.

*Private Airstrips*

Sarawak Oilfields Limited has a grass airstrip 3,087 feet long at Lutong near Miri, for use by the Sarawak Oilfields/British Malayan Petroleum Company's airfleet, of 3 Percival Prince Aircraft, 1 Short Sealand Amphibian and 1 Auster J. 5, based in Brunei State.

The Borneo Evangelical Mission has light aircraft grass landing strips at Lawas, Long Semadok, Bai Kelalan, Bareo, Lio Matu, Long Tebangan, and Long Atip, for their Auster J5 aircraft.

The use of these aircraft in remote parts of the country has taught the people the advantages of air transport.

### *Air Services*

Five week-day services in each direction were operated in 1953 by Malayan Airways through Kuching and Sibu on the Singapore—North Borneo service. An additional Sunday service, Singapore—Kuching—Sibu and return, will begin in January 1954.

Garuda Indonesian Airways on the Djakarta—Labuan—Manila service frequently make refuelling stops at Kuching, but do not yet accept traffic.

Aircraft of the Sarawak Oilfields/British Malayan Petroleum fleet also land frequently at Kuching.

Military aircraft movements are normally confined to re-fuelling visits to Kuching by aircraft flying between Singapore and Labuan, but there are occasional Sunderland flying boat communication or training flights, and landings are made in the rivers at Kuching and Sibu.

### STATISTICS FOR 1953

<i>Airport</i>			<i>Aircraft Movements</i>
Kuching	...	...	1,234
Sibu	...	...	744
Total			<u>1,978</u>

### Number of Passengers:—

<i>Airport</i>			<i>Landed</i>	<i>Uplifted</i>	<i>Transit</i>
Kuching	...	...	3,381	3,276	3,943
Sibu	...	...	1,751	1,764	2,957
Total			<u>5,132</u>	<u>5,040</u>	<u>6,900</u>

### MAIL AND FREIGHT

<i>Airport</i>			<i>Landed</i>	<i>Uplifted</i>
Kuching	...	...	142,169 lbs	58,890 lbs
Sibu	...	...	32,025 lbs	13,237 lbs
Total			<u>174,194 lbs</u>	<u>72,127 lbs</u>



## ROADS

Roads are confined to networks in and around the main centres of population. These centres are all on rivers or the coast, and travel by water has long been regarded as the natural means of surface communication.

The distances and terrain make the building of connecting or through roads a major and expensive operation, and climate and the unsuitability of local materials demand a high and expensive standard of construction if the road is to give reasonable service. Road mileages are

Hard Surface	95
Gravelled or Metalled	65
Dry Weather Earth Roads	115
Dry Weather Jeep Tracks	195

The Road Reconstruction programme was continued in the township areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions as far as materials, plant and staff allowed. Other activities included—

*Kuching—Serian Road—40m.* The bitumen surfacing of the remaining 15 miles of the existing narrow tracks was completed to Serian. The surfaced area was widened at various bazaars to provide hard standings.

*Serian—Simanggang Road—90m.* Survey was begun in 1950. Plans and a report were completed in 1953 and the design of the road, the preparation of tender documents, and the drawings were in hand. This work is being done by a Singapore engineering firm.

*Bau Road—15m.* Reconstruction to bitumen standard continued, but progress was hampered by bad weather, plant and organisation difficulties. At the end of 1953 8 miles of formation and base course were completed and one mile surfaced. The work is being done on a cost-plus-fixed fee contract basis by a Singapore firm.

*Quarries.* The initial development of the new granite quarry at Sebuyau was nearly completed. A jetty and buildings were erected and the production of block and crushed stone started,

with a pilot plant. The stone is extremely hard and this has required a modification of local quarrying practice. Launches ordered for transport are expected early in 1954. The stone from this quarry is mainly intended for the Third and Fourth Divisions where there are few accessible sources of good roadstone.

#### POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

There were 35 post offices in Sarawak in 1953.

##### *Mails*

Regular external mail services with Singapore were maintained once a week by sea and five times a week by air each way.

An "all up" service for first class mail at a basic charge of 10 cents was introduced to cover Sarawak, Brunei and North Borneo. This has made it possible for such mail to be despatched by the fastest possible means, either sea or air. The places served by the daily "all up" air mail service (except on Sundays) were Kuching, Sibul, Labuan, Jesselton, and Sandakan. Linked with the air service are Miri, by courtesy of the British Malayan Petroleum Company, which operates its own air service between Labuan, Seria and Lutong; and Brunei, which runs a regular launch service to connect with air mails at Labuan.

##### *Parcels*

					<i>Parcels Despatched</i>	<i>Parcels Received</i>
1951	...	...	...	...	11,100	28,100
1952	...	...	...	...	14,280	23,376
1953	...	...	...	...	11,485	23,601

##### *C.O.D. Parcels Received In Sarawak*

					<i>Value</i>	
					<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Malaya</i>
1951	...	...	...	...	\$42,500	\$961,800
1952	...	...	...	...	54,800	527,500
1953	...	...	...	...	45,900	575,400











*External Money Orders*

		<i>Sent</i>			
		<i>Malaya</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>U.K.</i>	<i>N. Borneo</i>
		\$	\$	\$	\$
1951	...	76,450	146,240	9,060	10,800
1952	...	71,244	205,696	7,196	3,653
1953	...	75,932	220,108	8,291	2,317

		<i>Received</i>			
		<i>Malaya</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>U.K.</i>	<i>N. Borneo</i>
		\$	\$	\$	\$
1951	...	37,140	420	2,550	13,100
1952	...	36,749	591	2,685	15,190
1953	...	23,437	137	3,268	7,885

*Telegraphs*

<i>Foreign Traffic—Words</i>				
		<i>Sent</i>	<i>Received</i>	
1951	...	866,140	...	901,680
1952	...	821,480	...	944,110
1953	...	925,940	...	1,057,920

<i>Internal Traffic—Words</i>				
		<i>Government</i>	<i>Private</i>	
1951	...	1,589,250	...	1,242,000
1952	...	1,765,540	...	1,456,890
1953	...	2,029,000	...	2,046,710

*Telephones*

Orders were placed for material for the execution of plans made and approved in 1952, and by the end of 1953 much had been received.

Arrangements were completed to enable the following Development work to begin in 1954:—

Kuching Underground Cables	...	January	1954
Kuching Auto Exchange	...	June	"
Sibu Underground Cables	...	June	"
Sibu Auto Exchange	...	August	"
Miri Underground Cables	...	April	"
Miri C.B. Exchange	...	March	"
V.H.F. Junction Scheme	...	January	"

*Establishment*

The problem of staff recruitment has been attacked vigorously in 1953, but it has not been solved in either quantity or quality.

It will be necessary to make a large number of appointments of Clerks and Junior Technical Assistants from Malaya and Hong Kong.

*Accommodation and Buildings*

The construction of 120 Junior Service Quarters, 5 Senior Service Quarters, 4 Maintenance Workshops and a Training School was nearing completion at the end of 1953.



## XIV

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### PRESS, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

#### PRESS

THE newspapers and periodicals published in Sarawak are set out in chapter VIII of Part Three on page 181.

There has been one casualty in 1952: 時事評論報—(Current Critic)—suspended publication in September 1953. The absence of this scholarly and stimulating paper, which was published twice weekly, is a matter for general regret, and we hope that it may resume publication. The other privately owned papers maintained a high standard of journalism and in some cases there was a marked improvement in appearance. This is an encouraging sign. When the London *Times* made a change in type last year it said:

“Dresses matter less than what they clothe but attention to fitting appearance is owed to the printed word as to all material things.”

The three monthly papers, *Co-operation in Sarawak* produced by the Co-operative Development Department and *Pembrita* and *Pedoman Ra'ayat* by the Information Office, each again increased their circulation, and negotiations were begun with a firm of London advertising agents for the inclusion of commercial advertising in the Malay and Dayak papers.

A new weekly paper, the *Borneo Bulletin*, appeared in 1953. It is published at Kuala Belait, just across the border in Brunei, but the paper should be mentioned and welcomed here because of the frequent and intelligent interest it shows in Sarawak and her affairs.

#### INFORMATION

For the Information Service the most important event of 1953 was the creation of a number of established posts in the service. This implied recognition of its place in the

government of the country and has given confidence to those working for it. All the established posts are held by Sarawak-born men.

Reading rooms were equipped and opened in Sarikei, (with most generous co-operation from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce there, who provided excellent premises), Engkilili, Lubok Antu, Binatang and Limbang. A room in Lawas was nearly ready at the end of 1953, and plans were well advanced for Betong and Kapit.

The addition to the staff at the beginning of 1953 of an experienced and well-qualified Chinese editor has made possible close and mutually useful contact with the Chinese press in Kuching and Sibu; the production in Chinese of a number of original booklets on health, agriculture and constitutional subjects; and the translation and printing of important official addresses and documents. Among the translations were versions in both Malay and Chinese of the Annual Report on Sarawak for 1952, excepting the more formal and statistical chapters. Five thousand copies of each were circulated.

The mobile cinema units based at Kuching to cover the First and Second Divisions, at Sibu for the Third and Miri for the Fourth, gave 535 film shows to an audience of about 247,000 people. Seven films of Sarawak events were made by the Information Office and shown by the Units, and pictures, especially taken by the staff photographer, of the Kuching Coronation Celebrations were shown by the B.B.C. in their Commonwealth television film, *Her People Rejoice*. The photographic service was much expanded during the year, and a regular supply of pictures for Government Departments, the Press, and enquirers and newspapers (including the *London Times*) from abroad was maintained. The staff photographer spent some weeks in Kuala Lumpur on a refresher course, largely concerned with the technique of processing. In the Estimates for 1954, funds were voted for the building of a dark room to enable the Information Service to do their own photographic processing. The staff artist was fully occupied in designing posters booklets and other material for both the Information Office and other Departments. He spent a period of training in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, and from this derived great benefit.



The office continued to act as distributing agent for the United States Information Service in both reading matter, of which a very generous supply was sent, and films. The USIS office in Singapore provided some 300 films on free and indefinite loan to Kuching. These are for use in Brunei and North Borneo as well as Sarawak, and the Kuching Information Office undertook responsibility for the maintenance and distribution of the library and the reporting to USIS thereon for all three countries.

Members of the staff travelled widely through the country. Travelling facilities were arranged and accommodation and material provided for many official and unofficial visitors and enquirers.

Co-operation with Brunei included a study visit to Kuching by the Assistant Information Officer, Brunei, and a visit by the Sarawak Information Officer to examine and report upon the Information Service there. The Sarawak Information Service cameraman made a film in Brunei for the State Medical Services which was warmly commended by the State Medical Officer.

#### BROADCASTING

Early in 1953 plans for the technical installations and buildings of the Sarawak Broadcasting Service were approved and in April the building of Broadcasting House began on a site in Rock Road, Kuching, opposite the Sarawak Museum grounds. At the end of the year the building was nearly finished.

Work on the Transmitting Station, two miles from Broadcasting House, was also begun in April and finished in November. The two 5 K.W. transmitter (Medium Wave and Short Wave) were installed and in successful test operation before the end of the year. The erection of aerials also made good progress. Preliminary tests show that Short Wave reception is excellent in all parts of Sarawak.

A suitable site for the Receiving Station of Radio Sarawak was chosen about four miles from Broadcasting House and work on buildings and aerials should begin early in 1954.

In 1953 considerable progress was made in recruiting technical and programme staff. Every effort is being made to

achieve a high standard, and gratitude is due to both the B.B.C. and to Radio Malaya for their invaluable help in staff training.

Agreement was reached with the Forces Broadcasting Unit in Singapore for the transmission of weekly Newsletter programmes in Iban for the Sarawak Rangers serving in Malaya. The programme, which will be recorded each week in the Kuching Studios, will contain personal messages from the relatives of the Rangers, *pantuns* specially composed and sung by Iban girls, and general items of Sarawak news. In the first programme, recorded on the 29th December, 1953, His Excellency the Governor broadcast a personal message to the Rangers in their own language.

#### PRINTING

Nearly all the new machinery ordered in 1952 for the Printing Office arrived and was installed in 1953. It included Linotype machines, a stereo plant, a Monotype supercaster, six automatic printing presses and a large quantity of binding and composing equipment, all of which were installed by local labour without dislocating the regular programme. Production has greatly increased.

30 new staff were recruited and large arrears of work were completed. Quality has improved and apart from the normal black and white work, colour process and line work is now being increasingly done.

A system of training was begun and this has been very successful in encouraging the staff to increase their skill.



## XV

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### LOCAL FORCES

SINCE the beginning of the Emergency in Malaya a considerable number of Sea Dayak volunteers for Sarawak have served in a civilian capacity with the security forces in Malaya as trackers. In this role they proved most successful and some distinguished themselves in actual combat.

During 1952 the Government of the Federation of Malaya sought the consent of the Government of Sarawak to the recruiting in Sarawak of Dayaks for military service in Malaya. The Dayaks so recruited would be given a definite military status and be subjected to military discipline. The Dayak Penghulus expressed, with very considerable emphasis, the view that they would like to see their young men given a more belligerent and aggressive part to play in operations against the terrorists.

As a result, a Sarawak Rangers Ordinance was enacted in 1953. This Ordinance makes provision for the permanent constitution, under the name of the "Sarawak Rangers", of a Corps of the Sarawak Volunteer Force (legislative provision for which was already in existence), to consist of persons who volunteered for military service outside the British Borneo territories. A Unit of the Sarawak Rangers, known as the Sarawak Rangers (Malaya Unit), has been raised during the course of the year, and it is now on active service in Malaya.

Men of the Unit, after training, are employed either as combatant platoons attached to British or Malay formations or as trackers. They have received high praise from commanding officers in Malaya, and four men have been awarded certificates by the Commander-in-Chief for outstanding service. During the year three men of the Sarawak Rangers have been killed in action. Members of the Unit have been responsible for the deaths of nine terrorists, and the formations to which Rangers have been attached have accounted for well over fifty.







Loke Wan Tho

A Selop girl at Rumah Tinggang Keling, Long Buroi, in the Dapoi River, Ulu Tinjar





Loke Wan Tho

At Rumah Tama Lorai Nagan, Long Tah, n the Nibong River, Ulu Tinjar, Fourth Division:  
a Punan dancing





Loke Wan Tho

A Punan dancing, at Rumah Tama Lorai Nagan



Punans at a house  
in the Ulu Tinjar  
looking at photo-  
graphs of themselves





## PART III





# I

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## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

**S**ARAWAK is a coastal strip about 450 miles long and from 40 to 120 miles deep on the north-west coast of Borneo, with an area of some 47,000 square miles. A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on the north west side of the range. The southern border, with West Borneo (Kalimantan Barat), is formed by another range of mountains running westwards from about the centre of the main range. There are three main types of country. First, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains, and finally a mountainous area in the interior. The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sand or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea and form coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are blocks of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top. Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up. The greater part of the country is forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations near government stations and along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

### *Principal Towns*

Kuching, the capital, stands on the Sarawak river 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population

of about 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely Chinese, who live in the town proper, built of brick plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is Astana, on the north (left) bank of the river and there also are Fort Margherita (formerly the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary), large Malay riverside kampongs and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Council.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is some 80 miles up the Rejang River at its confluence with the Igan. It is a natural river anchorage and port, though the size of ocean-going ships able to reach it is limited by the narrowness of the channel in one or two places. The town, with Government offices, hospital, wharves and warehouses, lay on a small island until a causeway was built connecting it with the mainland. The whole town area is low lying and much of it subject to flood, but large building operations with piling and filling have in some measure stopped flooding in the bazaar.

Sibu and its immediate neighbourhood are administered by an Urban District Council, and the country district by a Rural District Council, with a joint Finance Committee. The population of the town is over 10,000. It is the Headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the Headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is on the coast 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of it. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of about 9,000. It suffered severe damage in the war, the town being almost entirely destroyed, but its reconstruction is now almost completed. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow strip of flat land between the sea and the steep slopes about 1½ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, two miles from the town.

Other centres of population are: Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Divi-



sion), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand people, with bazaars, Government offices and quarters, and wharves.

### *Vegetation*

There is moss forest on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-eastern area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill (as distinct from swamp) varieties, covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamps near the coast and the cultivated areas. Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers, and *nipah* palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

### *Rivers*

The drainage system is controlled by the border range and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW in decreasing elevation, and by the ridges at right angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and still others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and further up *nipah*. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, there are gorges and dangerous rapids well below the sources.

### *Climate and Meteorology*

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and clear skies.

The annual rainfall varies from about 100 inches near the coast away from the mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 166.13 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 32.64 inches in January and the minimum 4.58 inches in August. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the rest of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March. A detailed climatological summary for 1953 follows.



1953	Mean 0800 hr air pressure at MSL	Air Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit										Rainfall			Number of Days					Bright Sunshine				Earth Temperature					
		Mean of Maximum A Maximum B		Absolute extremes							Mean of A and B	Most in a day			Total	Precipi- tation	Thunder- storm	Thunder heard	Fog	Gale	Total	Daily mean	per cent	Length of day	At 1 foot	At 4 feet			
				Highest Max.	Date	Lowest Min.	Date	Lowest Max.	Date	Highest Min.																	Date		
Jan.	1011.5	85.0	71.9	78.5	89.3	22	69.3	4	78.2	7	73.8	2	32.64	ins	12.45	7	27	5	7	6	—	115.35	3.72	31	12.02	81.0	83.0		
Feb.	1012.4	84.8	71.5	78.1	89.3	24	68.8	18	79.2	17	73.4	26	21.75	5.39	8	27	8	9	9	6	—	102.75	3.67	30	12.05	81.5	83.4		
Mar.	1011.2	87.0	72.4	79.7	91.5	26	69.4	30	81.6	2	74.8	18	13.11	2.25	11	24	10	13	6	—	140.30	4.53	37	12.07	82.4	83.8			
Apr.	1011.3	89.4	72.4	80.9	92.6	15	69.2	15	83.4	8	74.5	27	16.61	4.34	15	20	16	20	6	—	168.95	5.63	46	12.12	83.7	84.9			
May	1011.4	89.6	72.8	81.2	94.0	13	70.2	12	84.0	14	74.6	3, 14	11.95	1.77	5	22	11	17	10	—	186.10	6.00	49	12.15	84.3	85.5			
June	1010.1	89.0	72.5	80.7	93.0	16	69.8	27	80.4	4	75.0	7	5.74	1.67	21	12	5	7	3	—	190.90	6.36	52	12.18	84.1	85.4			
July	1011.2	88.3	72.0	80.1	93.1	1	69.7	19, 14	81.2	2	74.8	25	14.67	3.14	13	24	7	11	6	—	164.00	5.29	43	12.15	83.8	85.5			
Aug.	1011.0	91.7	71.2	81.5	95.7	17	67.8	28	88.0	1	74.9	22	4.58	0.99	19	10	9	16	4	—	208.45	6.72	55	12.12	85.2	86.3			
Sept.	1011.3	88.6	71.8	80.2	93.6	24	66.2	8	79.3	10	75.5	4	7.04	2.81	9	17	10	18	2	—	149.55	4.99	41	12.08	83.8	85.7			
Oct.	1011.6	88.5	71.9	80.2	92.8	22	69.5	17	81.3	10	74.0	30	11.35	3.38	23	20	10	18	5	—	141.25	4.56	37	12.05	84.2	85.7			
Nov.	1011.2	88.6	71.6	80.1	92.4	13	68.7	28	83.2	19	73.4	5, 19	13.76	2.12	25	27	11	17	8	—	131.80	4.39	36	12.02	83.4	85.3			
Dec.	1011.4	87.7	72.0	79.9	91.1	10	70.0	24	81.0	19	73.3	19	12.93	2.26	11	26	3	12	8	—	146.65	4.73	39	11.98	82.2	84.6			
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	166.13	—	—	256	105	165	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Means or Ex- tremes	1011.3	88.2	72.0	80.1	95.7	—	66.2	—	78.2	—	75.5	—	—	12.45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	153.84	5.05	—	—	83.3	84.9		

## SARAWAK

HEIGHT OF STATION 10 FEET AMSL

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY YEAR 1953

LATITUDE 3° 11' N LONG. 113° 59' E

## STATION BINTULU

1953	Mean 0800 hr air pressure at MSL	Air Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit										Rainfall			Number of Days					Bright Sunshine				
		Means of		Mean of A and B	Absolute extremes						Total	Most in a day		Precipitation	Thunderstorm	Thunder heard	Fog	Gale	Total	Daily mean	per cent	Length of day		
					Highest	Date	Lowest	Date	Lowest	Date		Highest	Date											
		A	B	Maximum	Minimum									Amount	Date									
Jan.	1011.4	87.1	73.3	80.2	90.0	4	71.0	30	81.8	7	75.0	28	10.20	1.28	22	1	5	2	—	151.45	4.89	41	11.93	
Feb.	1012.1	87.0	72.8	79.9	90.6	25	71.5	15	80.0	27	75.0	27	13.24	3.26	9	1	1	—	—	152.00	5.43	45	11.98	
Mar.	1011.0	88.5	74.1	81.3	90.8	28, 30	71.0	30	85.6	29	76.0	17, 18	11.33	2.15	19	1	6	—	—	197.15	6.36	53	12.07	
Apr.	1011.2	89.7	73.6	81.7	93.0	15	71.3	1	81.4	16	76.5	11	4.44	1.44	22	1	4	—	—	218.10	7.52	62	12.15	
May	1011.0	89.5	73.7	81.6	93.1	16	71.0	18	81.0	14	76.0	24	10.66	1.95	14	2	5	2	—	206.35	6.66	55	12.21	
June	1010.1	89.7	74.3	82.0	94.1	29	72.2	21	86.0	13	76.4	23	12.87	3.00	3	3	5	2	—	191.90	6.40	52	12.27	
July	1010.9	88.6	73.1	80.9	93.0	1, 2	70.8	11, 12	80.0	11	75.0	4, 26	15.70	3.55	29	1	5	1	—	180.35	5.82	47	12.25	
Aug.	1010.7	90.2	72.8	81.5	93.0	18	68.0	11, 12	85.0	9	76.0	19	5.40	1.68	8	4	7	2	—	217.45	7.01	57	12.18	
Sept.	1011.3	88.7	73.5	81.1	93.0	2, 5	70.6	13	83.0	8	76.2	4	8.21	1.78	6	2	3	1	—	167.70	5.59	46	12.10	
Oct.	1011.4	88.2	73.6	80.9	91.0	20, 22	71.0	14	82.4	5	75.0	11	12.82	3.00	29	3	6	1	—	187.80	6.06	50	12.02	
Nov.	1011.3	89.0	73.2	81.1	92.0	23, 24	71.0	27	84.4	3, 5	74.8	Sev	9.54	2.40	6	—	—	—	—	164.85	5.49	46	11.95	
Dec.	1011.0	88.6	73.5	81.1	91.0	10	71.2	8	81.0	19	74.8	Sev	14.82	3.27	14	1	4	5	—	178.60	5.76	48	11.92	
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29.23	—	—	185	20	56	16	—	—	—	—	—
Means or Ex-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84.48	6.08	—	—	—



1953	Mean 0800 hr air pressure at MSL	Air Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit										Rainfall			Number of Days					Bright Sunshine			
		Means of			Absolute extremes							Total	Most in a day		Precipi- tation	Thunder- storm	Thunder heard	Fog	Gale	Total	Daily mean	per cent	Length of day
					Maximum	Minimum	Means of A and B	Highest Max.	Date	Lowest Min.	Date		Lowest Max.	Date									
		A	B																				
Jan.	1011.7	87.2	73.7	80.5	90.0	3, 13	71.6	26	81.5	1	76.2	17	ins 8.31	ins 2.08	8	5	5	—	—	hrs 178.85	hrs 5.77	49	hrs 11.85
Feb.	1012.5	87.6	73.6	80.6	91.2	24	71.0	10 20,	84.8	14	75.0	9	8.40	1.58	21	5	8	1	—	hrs 176.05	6.29	53	hrs 11.95
Mar.	1011.4	89.5	74.5	82.0	93.0	28	72.2	31	83.5	23	76.4	4	4 12	2.84	9	2	9	—	—	241.95	7.80	65	12.07
Apr.	1011.4	90.3	75.3	82.8	92.8	5	73.0	17 5,	82.0	16	77.0	2	3.03	1.10	4	2	6	—	—	234.60	7.82	64	12.18
May	1011.6	89.0	75.1	82.1	93.0	12	72.8	20	81.0	14	77.2	2	12.27	4.10	27	2	6	—	—	211.10	6.81	55	12.28
June	1010.4	89.9	75.0	82.5	94.2	30	72.5	15	80.0	13	76.4	29	7.39	2.04	13	1	6	—	—	202.35	6.75	55	12.33
July	1011.3	88.6	73.4	81.0	95.4	1	71.8	6	80.5	30	77.2	4	12.19	1.78	14	2	8	—	—	198.25	6.39	52	12.32
Aug.	1011.1	88.7	74.0	81.3	92.8	16	70.8	11	84.0	21	76.0	13	3.23	0.87	8	3	6	3	—	214.50	6.92	57	12.22
Sept.	1011.8	87.2	73.6	80.4	91.2	3	71.0	25	82.2	20	76.0	24	17.70	2.83	25	7	13	1	—	183.70	6.12	51	12.10
Oct.	1011.6	86.6	74.2	80.4	89.0	2, 26	72.6	24	83.0	14	76.8	11	9.37	3.28	23	3	8	—	—	210.05	6.77	57	11.98
Nov.	1011.9	86.4	74.0	80.2	89.6	1	72.2	6	82.8	9	75.4	25 2,	9.97	2.18	17	2	3	—	—	171.35	5.71	48	11.88
Dec.	1011.4	87.2	74.2	80.7	90.4	20	71.5	3	84.4	17	76.0	11	7.88	2.50	2	3	7	1	—	211.85	6.83	58	11.83
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	103.86	—	—	37	85	6	—	—	—	—	—
Means or Ex- tremes	1011.5	88.2	72.2	81.2	95.4	—	70.8	—	80.0	—	77.2	—	—	4.10	—	—	—	—	—	202.88	6.67	—	—





## II

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### GEOLOGY

**S**ARAWAK has an important geological position in Borneo and Borneo has a key position in the island chain off the coast of South-east Asia. Much of the hinterland of Sarawak is mountainous; these highlands are a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, running southwards into northern Borneo, swinging gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then west and north-west. In the extreme west of the country there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-north-east in common with the Malayan regional strike.

Recent geological work in the interior of East Sarawak has shown volcanic rocks, building a plateau area some 200 square miles in extent and about 3,000 feet high. The rocks appear to be lava flows and ash material and some pumice has been found. This volcanic activity appears to be geologically of recent origin and shows that extensive revision of the existing ideas on Sarawak geology may be necessary.

The country falls into three main geological areas. The influence of the different rock types in these areas is shown by their forming three geographical divisions: interior mountainous areas, bordering undulating country with isolated mountain groups, and low-lying coastal tracts.

The interior region, mainly mountainous, is formed largely of the older rock i.e. Upper Palaeozoic, Mesozoic and Lower Tertiary deposits. It consists chiefly of hard, crystalline rocks comprising schist, phyllite, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, quartzite and shale; igneous rocks are common in some districts.

The undulating country, rising occasionally to over 2,000 feet, consists mainly of Tertiary sediments. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit conglomerate and limestone. Seams of coal occur, and oil reservoirs in Sarawak and Brunei have so far been found only in such formations. The Tertiary sediments

are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both oil and coal.

The low-lying coastal tracts are formed from pleistocene and recent deposits: these areas are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of them are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat to unconsolidated sands and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediment inland representing marine, river and lake accumulation.

Igneous rocks comprising intrusions of granite and diorite are common in West Sarawak, and there is also some gabbro. Dykes, sills, and plugs have been found, composed mainly of quartz porphyry, andesite, and, more rarely, dolerite; in some places lava, tuff, agglomerate, and basalt also occur. These are most commonly found associated with Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. The formation of metalliferous mineral deposits, such as gold, antimony, and mercury, appears to be genetically related to the igneous intrusions. Recent work in Upper Sarawak has shown that some of the igneous intrusions there often contain a small amount of gold.

#### POLICY AND ORGANISATION

The main work of the Geological Survey is to assist in making the country's natural resources available. Mineral resources are naturally the first consideration, but geology has many applications e.g. in agriculture and in civil engineering. Soil surveys, dam and airfield construction, water supply schemes can all be helped by geological knowledge.

The geological survey department for Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei was established in March 1949, with money provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. Since 1952 Sarawak has paid a substantial share of the cost of the work done in Sarawak. Much has been done, but it will be some years before a full picture of the geology and mineral resources is obtained. The head office of the survey is at Kuching. The staff at the beginning of 1953 comprised 5 geologists and 22 Asian field assistants, draughtsmen and clerks. In 1952 an increase in staff to 7 geologists and 27 Asian technical and clerical assistants



had been authorized and by the end of the year these appointments were made. The department is well equipped to deal with the geological investigations it is normally called upon to undertake, and has a launch especially designed for river and coastal work.

One of the first tasks of a geological survey is to prepare a regional geological map as the basis from which geological information is applied. In most countries the geological setting is already known as geological surveys have been established for 20 years or more. In Sarawak a Government survey has not previously existed, and so for some years energies must be concentrated on determining the regional geology. This work was begun by the collection of past geological and mining records, and the recording of known mineral occurrences. The systematic mapping of districts where mineral deposits were known followed and reconnaissance of extensive areas of which little is known has begun. The preparation of a regional geological map of a mountainous, jungle covered country with poor communications is a long task for a small, newly established survey working alone and making only field surveys, but it should be achieved within the next few years with the help of photo-geological interpretations and the co-operation of the geologists of the Shell group who have carried out systematic but specialized geological investigations in Sarawak since 1909.

#### REGIONAL GEOLOGICAL MAPPING

Regional geological mapping was continued in 1953 but progress was slower than before because several geologists were on furlough, or preparing memoirs and maps of work done. Determination of the nature and age of the rocks of Sarawak is one of the most important objects. The main groups have been tentatively determined over part of the region, but modifications will be necessary as work progresses. The general picture shows the rock succession in West Sarawak to be Permian, Carboniferous, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary. Work elsewhere shows it to be doubtful whether pre-Cretaceous rocks extend into East Sarawak, but shows the existence of the Cretaceous and later systems. Geological mapping is being done in widely separated districts, because regional geology is being investigated in certain key areas,

combined with mineral localities. In the Bau mining area systematic mapping is combined with examinations of gold, antimony, and mercury occurrences; at Silantek, in the Second Division, the coal deposits have been examined and the regional geology investigated. A third area being investigated is in the interior of East Sarawak where, in the Ulu Rejang basin on the Baram—Rejang watershed, interpretations from air photographs and reconnaissance work indicate volcanic rocks.

Geological mapping in Sarawak is difficult: the cover of vegetation is dense, swamps extensive, tropical weathering of rocks widespread, communications difficult, and labour for strenuous field work hard to find in the thinly-populated interior. The result is that investigations which can be completed in a few days in other places, may take several weeks here.

Photo-geological interpretations have been the greatest single factor in determining the regional geology. In 1953 almost three quarters of Sarawak had been photographed by the R.A.F. and the work may be completed in the next two years. Interpretations of air photographs are used as a basis for field mapping both by this survey and the Shell Group. Considerable help in the preparation of maps has been given by the photo-geological section of the Directorate of Colonial Geological Surveys, London. Fortunately Bornean geology is such that many of the main rock groups can be identified from air photographs when these are interpreted together with some field evidence. The use of these interpretations has greatly increased the speed of geological surveying, for apart from their intrinsic worth as maps, they help geologists to concentrate their field investigations in suitable areas, and to overcome the difficulties mentioned above.

#### ECONOMIC VALUE OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEYING

The chief value of a geological surveying is long term, and it comes from fundamental data assembled during systematic geological mapping. Immediate economic results are rarely obtained. The returns are often not very tangible, and sometimes valuable only in a negative sense e.g. it may be shown that it is useless to drill for underground water, or to search for good agricultural land, or roadstone, or minerals. But some discoveries of economic value have already been made. Aluminium ore has



been discovered and prospected, and good roadstone found where supplies have long been inadequate. Alluvial gold has been tested, and cave phosphate (guano) deposits investigated and their quality estimated. It has been shown that there is limestone suitable for cement manufacture in several places. Coal deposits have been investigated, and detailed reports made. Records of previous mining and prospecting for gold, coal, oil, antimony and mercury have been compiled, and some of the deposits investigated.





### III

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#### HISTORY

THE archaeological excavations begun in 1952 at Santubong, the first on an extensive scale in Sarawak, following upon the more specialised working in caves at Bau, are beginning to give us for the first time some idea of the earliest history of Sarawak in human terms. The importance of these excavations can be summarised under three headings:

(1) They establish that in Sarawak the iron age started much earlier than has generally been supposed. It would seem that the inhabitants of the then remote district of Upper Sarawak had iron implements many centuries ago.

(2) The source of these is now indicated as having been through Santubong and other coastal trading centres. These show a much more extensive early Chinese influence than had previously been expected.

(3) Hindu influences appear to be emerging as much less clear cut than was previously thought. Sarawak received the last gasp of Hinduism, heavily inter-mixed with local paganism and other influences.

A search for gold was certainly one of the primary factors in developing trade through places like Santubong but there was also a large wider trade, at least as far north as Brunei, in resins, hornbill ivory and other jungle produce.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included Western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the Ramayana), Ptolemy's *labadiou* and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist

monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Muslim States established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit, Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526, and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and from an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as Kuching, the present capital.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of the Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

For the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the help of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed



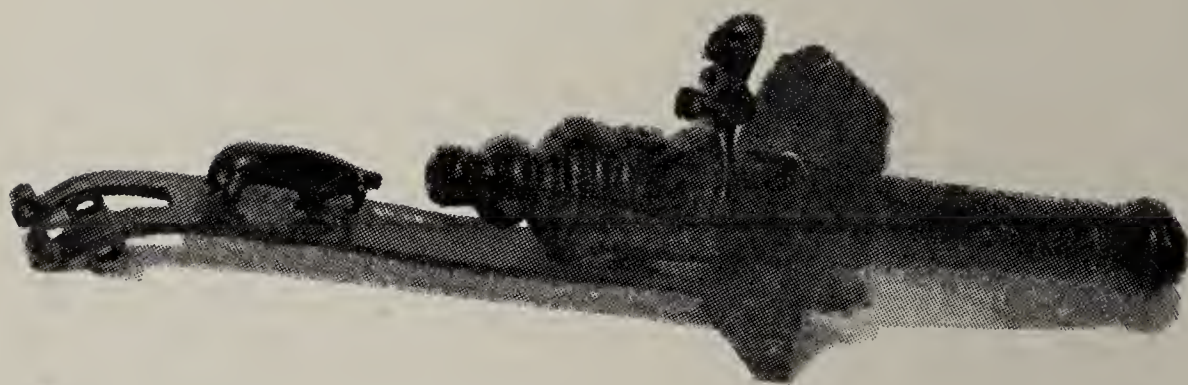
Young turtles in  
a hatchery at Ta-  
lang Talang Island







A carved figure from the Tinjar River recently purchased by the Museum



An old miniature brass cannon from Brunei. A section of the new Museum building will be devoted to exhibits of Brunei arts and crafts



almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, and political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all the rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built with such conspicuous success upon the foundations laid by his uncle that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River; in 1885 when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded; and in 1890, when the Limbang River region was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic pro-

portions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary re-formed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience than he then commanded were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.



## IV

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### SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

**T**HE Sarawak Museum, established by the second Rajah Brooke in 1886 is the only museum in Borneo. Standing in beautiful grounds in Kuching, it has the best collection of Borneo arts and crafts in the world, and is a great attraction both to tourists and local institutions. Of about 80,000 visitors during 1953 about a quarter were Dayaks, a third Malays, a third Chinese and the rest European and other races. School children accompanied by their teachers came in increasing numbers. The two stuffed orang-utans, the snakes, the big whale skeleton and the human heads interest the young, while the photographs of Kuching in the past and the crafts collection especially attract the older visitor.

Documents from the archives illustrating the history of the Brooke family were displayed during a special exhibition arranged in co-operation with the British Council to mark the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.

The live animals section has been enlarged and old cages rebuilt. Amongst the exhibits are porcupines, slow lorises, crocodiles, a hornbill and a two-year old maias or orang-utan.

Over 1,250 birdskins and 70 mammal skins were collected and prepared during the year, mainly by Kenyah, Murut, Kelabit and Malay part time collectors who were trained in the work at the Museum in 1951 and 1952.

#### *Research*

Through, or in conjunction with, the Museum, progress was made in all fields of research. The gaps in the scientific knowledge of Borneo, when compared with the data available for other parts of South-East Asia where there have been long-established research institutions, are still regrettably large.

#### *Anthropological Research*

The activities of the Museum are largely concerned with the anthropology and ethnology of the country. The principal

objects of anthropological research have again been:

- (1) the Kelabits of the far interior;
- (2) group contacts and conflicts; and
- (3) native legend, with particular relation to migrations and geography.

(1) *The Kelabits of the far interior*

This study, began in 1945 and carried on yearly for periods of two to nine months, was continued in the early part of 1953.

In December 1952, in an Auster aircraft belonging to the Borneo Evangelical Mission, the Curator flew into the area which lies between the headwaters of the Baram and Trusan Rivers. This journey which takes over a week by land from Miri or Lawas was thereby cut down to an hour or two. An airstrip at Bareo was completed early in 1953 and used later in the year though the first aircraft using it met with an accident at the take off.

The Kelabits have never accepted the stagnation their mountain-girt oasis might seem to impose. They are the only inland people of Sarawak with their own system of irrigation—at Bareo very extensive—and with buffalo, cattle, goats, and the secret of using salt springs (a vital factor in their economy). Tea, coffee and hemp which the Curator took with him are reported to be thriving. Potatoes, peas, lettuce and other vegetables flourish.

This survey will be carried on for a number of years. The full results of the 1952-53 expedition have not been recorded as the Curator went on leave in July 1953. It is hoped to produce a series of monographs describing the social anthropology of this people, who still combine an active megalithic culture with their advanced agriculture. This (if successfully continued) may be one of the closest long-term studies of an Asian community yet carried out.

(2) *Group contacts and conflicts*

In 1953 the chief work was the sorting of material collected from the Land Dayaks in the Kuching area, and a further study



of the almost vanished Serus of the Kalaka district. Unfortunately the sudden death of the Research Assistant working on this material delayed progress.

(3) *Native legend with particular relation to migration and geography*

One Junior Assistant Curator spends most of his time recording legends in the original native text and translating them into English for publication. For some time it has been apparent that this legendary material contains an enormous amount of fact, particularly in relation to the origins and movements of people, not only within Sarawak but from other areas.

*Malay Socio-Economic Survey 1952-1953*

This survey is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds from London and is a two-year project to supply information on Malay problems of health, nutrition, education, social organisation, housing standards, shopping and marketing facilities, labour and loan conditions, land usage and so on. The Malay community was the only large one not included in studies previously undertaken by London School of Economics students supervised by Dr. E. R. Leach.

In 1952 three geography graduates of the University of Malaya studied the Malays living in the Santubong area of the Sarawak River delta. In 1953 the Malay community of Kuching was similarly investigated by two undergraduates of the University of Malaya working under the supervision of Mr. B. Hodder, a lecturer in Geography at the University of Malaya, and assisted by Museum staff.

Valuable help was given by several students from Batu Lintang Training School who had been trained in social interviewing work and who had practical experience of this work in 1952. Over 300 households were studied in detail on a wide range of topics and the replies were recorded in a questionnaire. Most of the people interviewed were most co-operative and offered to help the survey by giving further information if asked. This survey, compared with the Santubong survey of 1952, will enable a comprehensive account of the Malay community to be prepared.

*Archaeological Excavations*

In the early part of the year excavation of the Santubong (Ja'ong) site, begun in 1952, continued and several new finds were made. Iron and pottery cover very large areas between Santubong village and the Ja'ong site, a mile away to the west, and many promising areas await investigation. Among the more recent finds is a fine porcelain figure resembling a Chinese Buddha. This was recently taken to England for identification.

*Turtles*

2,065,898 turtle eggs were collected from three islands off the coast of West Sarawak in 1953, compared with 1,537,498 in 1952 and 1,424,721 in 1951. The eggs are sold in the main towns and sent by air to Brunei. Over \$25,000 from the sale of eggs were handed to the Turtle Trust for religious and charitable purposes.

After last year's preliminary survey, Dr. J. R. Hendrickson of the University of Malaya, who is co-operating with the Curator in studying the breeding habits of turtles, began an intensive investigation on the islands. With a science student from the University of Malaya and the help of the Malay staff on the islands some 4,000 adult turtles have been tagged, i.e. given a special numbered metal non-corrosive clip, so that each can be recognised. From the beginning of this marking records were kept of all the marked turtles which came back to lay on the beaches of the islands. Already information is being assembled to determine how many times each turtle lays in a season, and how many eggs each time. Many other matters necessary for the preservation and increase of the turtles are being investigated.

It is known that many turtles leave Sarawak waters for long periods, but where they go to lay their eggs is unknown. With 4,000 tagged turtles swimming the seas we hope we may soon hear from other places that Sarawak turtles have been seen.

Methods of collecting eggs, hatching young turtles for replenishing the population, and ways of storing and shipping eggs are being investigated. This study should provide a gradually increasing yield of eggs for eating in the next few years.



### *Native Arts*

Attention continued to be paid to the decline in native arts, and efforts have been made to encourage craftsmen, such as the man who makes the beautiful bamboo pipes in the Land Dayak country, and the wonderful wood carvers of the Tinjar River. There is a small but growing demand from abroad for Sarawak products, and an evident need for shops, officially authorised, in Kuching, Sibuan and other places. Sarawak has some of the finest arts and crafts, particularly in the fields of wood carving (Kenyah), weaving (Iban and Land Dayak), basketry (Melanau, Land Dayak, Kedayan), bamboo decorating (Kelabit, and Land Dayak), beadwork (Kenyah-Kayan), swords (Kenyah and latterly Punan) and blowpipes (Punan).

### *Ceramic Arts*

Many visitors are impressed by the number and quality of the ceramics found in long-houses even far in the interior. The Museum collection was enlarged in 1951. This china and pottery is nearly all of Chinese or Siamese origin and was traded into Borneo as early as the Tang Dynasty.

There is not enough room to show ceramics in the Museum and much of the collection (mostly acquired in the last six years) is kept in store as a reference collection. This should be overcome when the new building is completed.

It is hoped that within the next few years there will be not only a special Brunei gallery at Kuching but also a separate museum unit, associated and cared for through the Sarawak Museum, in Brunei itself. Meanwhile the Brunei Government has given generous support to the Sarawak Museum to encourage research in Brunei arts and crafts and the acquisition of fine specimens.







Hedda Morrison

A school girl at Pamein, in the Kelabit country of the Fourth Division,  
playing a *soleng*, a bamboo flute







## V

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### FLORA AND FAUNA

**B**ORNEO is very rich in animals and plants. In this connection the island has two characteristics. First, it is very largely mountainous. Although there are few great mountains, there are many peaks and ranges over 3,000 feet high which intersect and intermingle to form a tangled chaos over the whole interior. Secondly, it is one of the least densely populated tropical areas in the world. In Sarawak, large tracts are uninhabited. In 1951 an exploration party travelled for twenty-six days from the last village in the Baram River, over previously unmapped and unexplored country, before they reached the first long-house in the Rejang River above Belaga. These two characteristics, great areas of mountains and of virgin jungle, give Borneo in general, and Sarawak in particular, a rich share in the fauna and flora of South East Asia.

The jungle is a vibrating sound board, and much of its life goes on in the top, high above the human visitors' head. It is responsive to strange and ignorant noise and it is affected by heat and light. Its great varied humming activity comes in the early hours of morning and the late hours of the evening. At noon, the most observant watcher in the world may patrol it and fail to recognise anything other than shadow, and indeed fail to be recognised even by a mosquito.

But those who are prepared patiently to master the dawn or the dusk of the Borneo jungle will find therein some of the richest and most exciting forms of life that the human mind can describe or imagine. There are more than a hundred species of mammals. There are more than six hundred kinds of birds, of which it is easy to see and identify a hundred within a few days. These are tens of thousands of sorts of insect and plant. Everywhere, growing along with the darkly vivid jungle, there is vigorous life which includes some of the most ordinary as well as some of the most extraordinary animals and plants in the world.

Perhaps the most famous of Borneo animals is the orang utan or maias, one of the very few close cousins of *homo sapiens*. It is found only in Borneo and a small part of Sumatra. Despite constant persecutions and inadequate protection, there are still a number of maias in Sarawak and in sections of the adjacent territories of Indonesian Borneo and North Borneo. This charming, amiable, chestnut-furred animal, desired by zoos all over the world, can still be seen, shambling from tree to tree in the inland sections of the First and Second Divisions. Another of the five great apes of the world also occurs in Borneo, the gibbon or wak-wak, probably the most graceful of all arboreal animals. A favourite pet, it is in captivity very susceptible to pneumonic diseases.

A little below the apes are the monkeys. Here again, Sarawak can claim some distinction. The proboscis monkey, represented on North Borneo stamps, is peculiar to the island and is distinguished by an immense rubicund port-wine nose. It seems a little unfair that the native name for this otherwise elegant animal, sometimes standing almost as high as a man, is *orang blanda*—in English, a Dutchman.

Sarawak is rich in other mammals, of which there is space to mention only a few. The rhinoceros is dangerously near extinction, largely owing to the persistent (now illegal) hunting of these animals by the Dayaks, who sell them to the Chinese. Wild cattle are quite commonly found in the northern part of the country; wild elephants are confined to North Borneo. Three sorts of deer are extremely numerous; the sambhur deer or rusa, almost as big as a cow, is in some places a nuisance to rice farmers. The tiny mousedeer or *pelandok*, famous in many Malay legends, does not seem to be so clever as the stories suggest, but he provides some of the most succulent meat for those who travel through the jungle.

There is only one dangerous animal, the honey bear or *bruang*. The leopard can be large and magnificent, but the people of the island regard it as effeminate. The honey bear if upset or with a family of young, will attack the unwary traveller. Many are the stories of people who have been clawed and in some cases killed by angry honey bears.



Of the many animals, mention may perhaps be made of the Kelabit badger, only found in the highlands. He looks rather, and performs exactly, like a skunk. Flying squirrels, flying lemurs and flying foxes give us variations of the theme of gliding. There are plenty of porcupines, which do *not* discharge their quills. There is a sort of bat which is blind and white, and has a pouch in which lives a special sort of insect not found anywhere else. There are caves which a million bats share with more than a million swifts in the ghostly shadow of day-time and the whirling vortex of dusk. Of course, to those who plough along with a line of porters on a time schedule little of this is revealed, and the tense crowded life of the jungle is only visible to those who give it attention.

There is also to be found in Borneo one of the richest bird faunae in the world. There are several sorts of hornbill, notorious for their domesticity: the male walls the female into the nest, feeds her there and only liberates her when the young are ready to fly. There are several of the most beautiful pheasants in the world, including the spectacular Argus. Its feathers are more handsome than those of the peacock; its dancing grounds are stamped out of the mud so that several males can compete to the delight, or at least excitement, of the females.

Sarawak has parrots, broadbills, ten kinds of pigeon, egrets, nearly twenty kinds of woodpecker, exquisite honeyeaters and flower-peckers, the lovely-voiced yellow-crowned bulbul, ten kinds of flashing kingfishers and so many many other birds that it is doubtful if any one person could ever learn to know and recognise them all.

Some of the birds are of economic interest such as the munias or parrot finches, which probably eat a few million dollars' worth of padi in a year, or the swiftlets which, from the compassion of their saliva, make edible nests worth many thousands of dollars a year. These edible nests, with edible turtles, provided in days gone by two of the most favoured foods for export to gourmets in China.

Sarawak has the most dangerous and deadly snake in the world, the hamadryad or king cobra. This reptile, which can grow over 15 feet in length and is quite common, is one of the

very few in the world which will deliberately attack human beings. It also has its own hideous beauty.

Lizards, of which there are almost a hundred kinds, are more conspicuous, especially because of the attraction which human dwellings appear to have for some varieties; the most obvious are the gecko and *chichak*. An observant person will quite often see flying lizards, which actually only glide on membranes extended between the front and back limbs. Sarawak is rich in flying forms, its flying snake being one of the most spectacular. This peculiar snake, which looks quite ordinary, can (when it wishes) extend its ribs to produce two sails and soar for quite a distance. One let go from the upper storey of the Sarawak Museum glided nearly 50 yards. Among the amphibians, there are also flying frogs and frogs with small bodies and huge feet upon which are suckers. There are also enormous toads, some of them weighing pounds, which like to sit on rotten tree trunks, cogitating.

The vertebrate fauna—those with backbones—is mainly to be found in the sea. There are plenty of sharks, sometimes weighing up to hundreds of pounds. There is no record in recent years of anybody being taken by a shark, but someone is consumed by a crocodile in the rivers each year. There seem to be very few other big fish, and so far no one has shown that big game fishing is possible here. This is largely because there appears to be a shortage of feed for big fish around Sarawak's shores—and in general, fish are just numerous enough to satisfy local markets. The only three common big fish which can be taken on line are the barracuda, the horse mackerel and the banito. Very big sting rays are seen from time to time, and large sawfish are sometimes caught in fishermen's nets about the deltas—unfortunately for the fishermen, whose nets are thereby damaged.

Perhaps enough has been said to indicate the tremendous wealth of Sarawak's animal and plant life. Numerous other illustrations of this wealth can be produced from *molluscs* (shells), *crustaceans* (crabs, etc.), *arthropods* (spiders, etc.) and *nematodes* (worms). In the vertebrate section of spineless or boneless animals, the variety of the forms is immense; Dr. B. M. Hobby, M.A., D.Phil., F.R.E.S., of the Department of Entomology in Oxford, who accompanied the Oxford Expedition to Sarawak in



1932, has continued to write descriptive papers on specialised groups of insects ever since, and will himself be the first to admit that he only has a fractional knowledge of the insect fauna of Sarawak.

Sarawak also has many beautiful flies, the loveliest of which is the Rajah Brooke's bird-wing.

An essential background, of course, to all the animal life, the fauna of this vivid territory, is the plant life, the flora. This is a little less varied, but very prolific and fertile. There are some distinct forms of vegetation forms which largely determine the fauna living within them. Above about 3,000 feet on the mountains there is low vegetation draped with mosses with its own special fauna and flora—the "moss forest habitat." In the lowlands, the jungle grows to great heights and where it has not been felled produces several different levels of animal and plant life. This virgin jungle, with its canopy, sub-canopy, intermediate and ground level fauna and flora, is the most widespread and the richest environment for the plant life of Borneo. Large parts of Sarawak are entirely virgin jungle, uninhabited except for the occasional visits of nomadic Punans.

Where man has had his influence there is secondary jungle, gradually reverting to primary jungle over many years and distinguished by the lack of great trees. On the coastal plain there are swamp forests, largely areas of mangrove and nipah palm, and along the sand fringes of casuarina. As with the animals, so with the plants, there is abundance.

To the hasty eye, it all looks rather dull, uniform and unexciting. There are no towering banks of orchids or great clutching plants. There is the dark green background, the damp, and the decay, the essence of equatorial jungle. But to those who are prepared to take a second, slower look, to sit around patiently, to be bitten by leeches, wonders and beauties will presently reveal themselves. For Sarawak has some of the world's most glorious orchids, such as the *arachnis grandiflora*, not obvious but easily found upon the epiphytic trees, which are their hosts. The most weird is perhaps the *rafflesia*, a staggering yellow and red blossom which comes straight out of the ground as a jungle flower big enough to bathe in.





## VI

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### ADMINISTRATION

**S**ARAWAK is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident.

These Divisions are

- the First Division, with headquarters at Kuching;
- the Second Division, with headquarters at Simanggang;
- the Third Division, with headquarters at Sibü;
- the Fourth Division, with headquarters at Miri;
- the Fifth Division, with headquarters at Limbang.

Each Division is sub-divided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into smaller areas or sub-districts each in charge of a member of the Native Officers Service. The District Officers are advised by District Advisory Councils and sometimes Chinese Advisory Boards set up in each District, whilst Residents have the benefit of the advice of Divisional Advisory Councils which meet at frequent intervals at Divisional Headquarters. As far as is practicable, Government attempts to free Residents and District Officers from as much office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the keynote of administration.

The most important development in administration since the termination of World War II has been the progress made in Local Government. Before the War the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling Ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This Order contemplated the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs, but the first experiment on these lines did not get very far owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision. In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own

Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number of tax-payers.

No new Authorities were constituted during 1953 leaving the total at 17; some 240,000 people are subject to their jurisdiction. The majority of the Authorities first constituted were established on a racial basis; it has long been discovered that this is an unsound foundation for such bodies and it is not proposed to constitute any more. The pattern upon which Local Government will be based is the Mixed or Inter-Racial Authority having jurisdiction over people of all races within its area.

As regards progress of existing Authorities during the year, this can be described as satisfactory. Some Authorities—more notably those at Limbang and Mukah—have demonstrated the soundness of their foundations and their capacity to undertake greater responsibilities in a wider field of activity. Two larger and recently constituted Authorities have run into difficulties, which will have to be resolved before they achieve the smooth progress which has characterized those Authorities referred to above.

Special reference must be made to the Kuching Municipal Council which was at the beginning of the year given a much greater degree of autonomy than was exercised previously by the Kuching Municipal Board; the latter was, in fact, little more than a Department of Central Government. Although there has been no spectacular progress the new Municipality has during its first year successfully completed many of the difficult adjustments which inevitably result from such a change, and there is every reason to hope that it will become a responsible and efficient unit of Local Government.

In 1941, to commemorate the centenary of Brooke rule in Sarawak, His Highness the Rajah granted a Constitution and, in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.



The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of 25 members, 14 of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and 11 of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the country and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the 25 members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the country and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the country except with the consent of that body.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgement, Her Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgement, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgement, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.





## VII

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### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

THE standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of Sarawak are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful:

1 Tahl	... ..	=	1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ozs
1 Kati (16 tahils)	...	=	1 $\frac{1}{3}$ lbs
1 Picul (100 katis)	...	=	133 $\frac{1}{3}$ lbs
1 Koyan (40 piculs)		=	5333 $\frac{1}{3}$ lbs
1 Chhun	... ..	=	1.19/40 inches
10 Chhuns	... ..	=	1 Chhek = 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
1 Panchang	...	=	108 stacked cubic feet





# VIII

## NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

		FOUNDED
<i>Sarawak Tribune</i> , Kuching (daily—English)	...	1945
<i>Chinese Daily News</i> , Kuching (Chinese)	...	1945
<i>Sarawak Vanguard</i> , Kuching (daily—Chinese)	...	1952
<i>Ta Tung Daily News</i> , Sibü (Chinese)	...	1948
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# IX

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## APPENDIX

## COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES—SARAWAK ALLOCATION

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Total Grant	Actual expenditure to 31.12.52	Estimated expenditure 1953	Estimated expenditure 1954	Balance of scheme	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
	AGRICULTURE						
D. 816 & D. 816A	Agriculture Soil Survey ... ..	128,800	102,599	—	—	26,201*	Completed
D. 826	Rubber Improvement (Extension)	83,228	58,500	6,400	—	18,328*	Completed
D. 954	Cultivation of Cash Crops ... ..	128,000	91,039	10,000	—	26,961	Completed
D. 968	Visit of Malayan Irrigation Engineer + ... ..	2,571	1,934	—	—	637*	Completed
D. 973 & D. 973A	Mechanical Cultivation ... ..	136,140	83,074	—	—	53,066*	Completed
D. 1208 & D. 1208A-B	Rice Cultivation—Paya Megok ...	569,908	327,975	63,378	65,217	113,338	
D. 1424	Cocoa Seed Production Station ...	17,950	10,200	2,400	2,650	2,700	
D. 1519	Department of Agriculture Staff Training School ... ..	100,000	97,024	2,967	—	9*	Completed
D. 1664	Farm Mechanisation ... ..	163,500	103,812	58,000	1,688	—	Completed
	Rice Cultivation—Niah/Sibuti ...	93,428	18,896	29,456	27,328	17,748	
	CIVIL AVIATION						
D. 913A-B	Kuching Airport (Supplementary)	291,916	254,357	37,559	—	—	Completed
D. 1542 & D. 1542A	Sibu Airfield ... ..	180,000	180,000	—	—	—	Completed
D. 1923	Sibu Airfield—Buildings ... ..	281,000	—	170,000	111,000	—	
	EDUCATION						
D. 838	Rural Improvement School, Kanowit ... ..	275,194	249,693	—	—	25,501*	Completed
D. 839 & D. 839A	Batu Lintang Teacher-Training Centre and School ... ..	901,373	620,631	44,928	—	235,814	Completed
D. 1871	Grants for Domestic Science Rooms	80,000	—	20,000	60,000	—	
D. 1875	Grants for Science Laboratories ...	150,000	—	80,000	70,000	—	



D. 821	Training of Fishery Officer +	3,428	3,428	—	—	Completed
D. 837 & D. 837A	Fisheries Survey +	86,786	80,922	3,056	2,808*	abandoned
	FORESTRY					
D. 1120	Forestry Development	392,694	122,102	77,876	106,204	
	GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS					
D. 1430 & D. 1430A	Senior Service Quarters	226,011	215,642	1,248	9,121*	abandoned
	MEDICAL					
D. 830 & D. 1828	Travelling Dispensaries	670,000	635,870	9,200	24,930*	abandoned
	Central Mental Hospital	488,571	—	—	488,571	Scheme Completed
	PORT DEVELOPMENT					
D. 1273	Test Bores, Rejang and Kuching Rivers	79,971	75,559	—	4,412*	Completed
	ROAD AND BRIDGES					
D. 944	Secondary Roads and Telecommunications +	102,171	98,911	—	3,260*	Completed
D. 1076 & D. 1076A-E	Road Development Scheme	2,216,916	1,299,753	709,605	112,558	
	TOTAL, SARAWAK ALLOCATION	7,969,556	4,731,921	1,326,073	534,395	1,377,167

\*Saving on C.D. &amp; W. grant.

+Completed before commencement of Revised Development Plan.

## COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES—JOINT BORNEO ALLOCATION

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Total Grant	Actual expenditure to 31.12.52	Estimated expenditure 1953	Estimated expenditure 1954	Balance of scheme
D. 823	Coal Investigation + ... ..	\$ 92,143*	\$ 92,143	\$ —	—	Completed
D. 804 & D. 804A-D	Sarawak Population Census and Printing of Census Tables + ... ..	224,211	411,428	—	—	Completed
D. 913	Kuching Airport ... ..	411,428	—	—	—	Completed
D. 1828	Central Mental Hospital ... ..	727,782	—	15,228	—	Completed Scheme abandoned
	TOTAL JOINT BORNEO ALLOCATION	1,267,782	503,571	15,228	—	525,081

## COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES—CENTRAL ALLOCATIONS

D. 1109 & D. 1109A	Combined Geological Survey ... ..	982,344	845,333	—	—	137,011	Completed
D. 1109B	Combined Geological Survey ... ..	837,546	293	81,159	368,821	387,273	Completed
D. 1191(i)	Combined Geological Survey ... ..	4,827	4,827	—	—	—	Completed
D. 1479	Broadcasting Service ... ..	406,283	—	34,836	371,447	—	Completed
D. 1692	Meteorological Service ... ..	197,990	—	8,305	—	22,094	Completed
D. 1117 & D. 1117A-E	Aeronautical Telecommunications ... ..	402,000	—	2,819	18,575	10,134	Completed
D. 1924	Aeronautical Equipment, Sibul ... ..	81,000	—	8,000	73,000	—	Completed
R. 209 & R. 209A	Fisheries Survey + ... ..	86,786	—	3,056	—	2,808	Completed
R. 270 & R. 270A-G	Sociological Research (Melanau, Iban, Land Dayak and Chinese Projects) ... ..	93,266	—	7,931	—	4,546	Completed
R. 483	Sociological Research (Malay Project) ... ..	6,000	—	2,390	—	12	Completed
	TOTAL, CENTRAL ALLOCATIONS ... ..	3,098,042	850,453	148,496	831,843	563,878	

+ Completed before commencement of Revised Development Plan.

\*Represents 50% of total grant; scheme administered by North Borneo.

\*\*Represents 60% of total grant.



DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEMES—COLONY FUNDS

APPENDIX

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Title of Scheme	Total estimated cost of Scheme	Actual expenditure to 31.12.52	Estimated expenditure 1953	Estimated expenditure 1954	Balance of scheme
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Fertiliser Manufacture ... ..	5,000	2,870	100	2,030	—
Development of Farm Mechanisation ... ..	302,340	101,801	116,172	59,016	25,351
Rice Cultivation—Paya Megok ... ..	139,074	35,120	27,853	28,581	47,520
Rice Cultivation Niah/Sibuti ... ..	93,428	19,775	29,456	27,328	16,869
Animal Husbandry (Purchase of Livestock) ... ..	50,000	12,252	15,000	22,748	—
	[589,842]	[171,818]	[188,581]	[139,703]	[89,740]
<b>BROADCASTING</b>					
Establishment of Broadcasting Service ... ..	499,241	—	265,324	233,917	—
<b>CIVIL AVIATION</b>					
Kuching Airfield ... ..	20,000	—	—	20,000	—
Sibu Airfield ... ..	156,000	140,879	15,121	—	—
Bintulu Airfield ... ..	91,000	—	20,000	71,000	—
	[267,000]	[140,879]	[35,121]	[91,000]	[—]
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Rural Improvement School, Kanowit ... ..	369,165	78,358	110,251	—	180,556*
Buildings—Rural Improvement School Kanowit	185,400	84,198	39,961	45,000	16,241
Batu Lintang Teacher-Training Centre and School	935,000	1,867	160,215	—	772,918*
Overseas Scholarships ... ..	468,980	32,203	80,700	120,000	236,077
Production of Vernacular Literature ... ..	40,000	740	—	39,260	—
Trade and Technical Education ... ..	700,000	—	—	24,620	675,380
	[2,698,545]	[197,366]	[391,127]	[228,880]	[1,881,172]
<i>Carried forward</i> ... ..	4,054,628	510,063	880,153	693,500	1,970,912

\*Saving on Scheme.

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEMES—COLONY FUNDS.—(contd.)

Title of Scheme	Total estimated cost of Scheme	Actual expenditure to 31.12.52	Estimated expenditure 1953	Estimated expenditure 1954	Balance of Scheme	
<i>Brought forward</i> ...	\$ 4,054,628	\$ 510,063	\$ 880,153	\$ 693,500	\$ 1,970,912	
<b>FISHERIES</b>						
Marine Fisheries Research Station, Singapore ...	51,720	—	—	3,000	48,720	
Fishery Development ... ..	124,624	14,941	61,411	48,272	—	
	[176,344]	[14,941]	[61,411]	[51,272]	[48,720]	
<b>FUEL AND POWER</b>						
Electricity Supplies ... ..	46,500	46,500	—	—	—	Completed
<b>GEOLOGICAL SURVEY</b>						
Combined Geological Survey ... ..	360,000	63,766	90,000	90,000	116,234	
<b>GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS</b>						
Rehabilitation of Lundu Station ... ..	332,500	264,085	—	68,415	—	
New Government Office, Kuching ... ..	1,200,000	—	375,000	825,000	—	
Extension of Government Office, Simanggang ...	58,000	57,319	367	—	314*	Completed
New District Office, Lawas ... ..	48,000	47,679	—	—	321*	Completed
P.W.D. Garage, Kuching ... ..	280,000	122,643	157,357	—	—	Completed
P.W.D. Depot (First and Second Divisions) ...	240,000	—	—	240,000	—	
Miri Government Offices, extension ... ..	57,000	—	—	57,000	—	
	[2,215,500]	[491,726]	[532,724]	[1,190,415]	[635]	
<b>HOUSING</b>						
Miri Housing Scheme ... ..	500,000	—	—	250,000	250,000	
	7,352,972	1,126,996	1,564,288	2,275,187	2,386,501	
<b>MEDICAL</b>						
Health Centre ... ..	280,000	14	99,986	180,000	—	
Leper Settlement Buildings ... ..	435,000	120,748	20,007	292,600	1,645	
Travelling Dispensaries ... ..	1,036,573	12,188	221,723	—	802,662*	
Extension of Anti-Tuberculosis Facilities, Kuching ... ..	210,000	4,652	50,000	5,000	150,348	Transferred to recurrent budget from
Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign ... ..	75,000	—	41,000	34,000	—	





## DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEMES—COLONY FUNDS.—(contd.)

Title of Scheme	Total estimated cost of Scheme	Actual expenditure to 31.12.52	Estimated expenditure 1953	Estimated expenditure 1954	Balance of Scheme
<i>Brought forward</i> ...	\$ [381,500]	\$ [19,574]	\$ [167,926]	\$ [194,000]	\$ —
<b>WATER SUPPLIES</b>					
Batu Kitang Scheme, Kuching ...	3,300,000	5,915	900,400	1,200,000	1,193,685
Sungei China Pipeline, Kuching ...	307,000	186	266,814	40,000	—
Simunjan ...	65,000	—	32,300	32,700	—
Sarikei ...	400,000	1,866	1,433	300,000	96,701
Bau ...	43,566,462	2,626,449	9,211,065	18,713,194	13,015,754
Miri ...	60,000	38,518	21,482	—	—
Limbang ...	300,000	—	—	150,000	150,000
Sibu ...	21,000	—	—	21,000	—
WATERWAYS	214,000	—	—	214,000	—
Sungei Kut Canal ...	[4,667,000]	[46,485]	[1,222,429]	[1,957,700]	[1,440,386]
DEVELOPMENT STAFF	280,000	8,989	60,000	150,000	61,011
Agricultural and Engineer Officers ...	773,650	—	193,812	279,584	300,254
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	45,215,112	2,673,956	9,486,359	19,527,778	13,527,019

**SUMMARY**

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXPENDITURE

	Total Approved Scheme	Estimated expenditure to 31.12.53	Estimated expenditure in 1954	Estimated balance to complete
(i) Expenditure from C.D. & W. Grants ...	\$ 11,212,512	\$ 7,920,854	\$ 1,366,238	\$ 1,925,420
(ii) Expenditure from Colony Funds ...	45,215,112	12,160,315	19,646,378	13,408,419
<b>TOTAL, DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEMES</b> ...	56,427,624	20,081,169	21,012,616	15,333,839





# SARAWAK

Scale 48 Miles to An Inch

Mile 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles

- ----- Divisional Headquarters
- ----- District Headquarters



